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Grenade attack wounds 3 Palestinians

BETHLEHEM, occupied West Bank (AFP) — Two grenades lobbed at an Israeli bus missed and wounded three Palestinians on the occupied West Bank Friday, an army spokesman said. One of the grenades exploded on a shop front causing the wounds, the spokesman said, adding that the attackers had not been identified. Palestinian sources said a grenade had been lobbed from a car wounding four Palestinians near Bethlehem. They suspected Jewish extremists. Palestinian witnesses said they saw settlers throw a grenade. The injured were taken to hospital at the nearby town of Bir Zeit where their wounds were described as "moderately serious." The army sealed off the area. Four 17-year-old members of an anti-Arab group are in custody awaiting trial for a grenade attack in the Old City's Muslim quarter last November which left an Arab merchant dead and 12 injured. Three of the group from Kahane Haim, a splinter of the Kahane party, named after founder Rabbi Meir Kahane, who was killed in New York in November 1990, have confessed, police say.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الراي)

Russian envoy arrives in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A senior Russian diplomat arrived here Friday to try to narrow differences that have stalled the Arab-Israeli peace process. The visit of Viktor Posavayuk, head of the Foreign Ministry's Department for Africa and the Middle East, comes in advance of a scheduled trip next week by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Mr. Posavayuk also is to visit Lebanon and Tunisia, where he will meet with leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Kurds say they may free tourists

ANKARA (R) — A rebel Kurdish leader told a Turkish journalist Friday he believed six Western tourists would be freed after relatives appealed for their release. "We have nothing against these people. We are considering the appeal in a very positive way and we hope to be giving them a very positive reply," a Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) official told a reporter for the English-language Turkish Daily News. Cemil Bayik, chairman of the PKK's military council, was speaking after the reporter, Ismet Inser, handed him messages from relatives of the four Frenchmen, one Briton and one Australian kidnapped in southeast Turkey this month.

Ciampi expects elections in 1994

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi said Friday crisis-hit Italy would have early general elections next year, according to remarks reported in Italian media. "I think the country will have elections after the budget for 1994 has been approved, so it will be in the new year," Mr. Ciampi told Italian reporters during a visit to Paris to meet French Premier Edouard Balladur. "We will see later in which month of 1994," he added. Former Bank of Italy Governor Ciampi took over as prime minister last April and was seen as a neutral figure to lead the country pending the scrapping of the proportional representation voting system, as demanded by Italians in a referendum.

(Continued on page 10)

Error could have caused latest U.S. attack in south Iraq

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Sixteen people returning from a religious gathering survived when their plane crashed in Malaysia's Sarawak state on Borneo Island Friday, an official said. One person died when the British-made Shorts Skyvan crashed after a failed emergency landing deep in the jungle. "We don't know yet why the plane tried to land... it could be due to bad weather or shortage of fuel," said Abdul Rahim Abdullah, medical officer at Muri general hospital.

The comments of the official, who requested anonymity followed a report in Friday's New York Times quoting an unnamed administration official as saying that pilots had indeed made an error of judgement.

A U.S. navy EA-6B prowler aircraft fired an anti-radiation Harm missile each at suspected Iraqi missile sites after being illuminated by radar while patrolling an area approximately 130 kilometres south of the 32nd Parallel. The attacks occurred two hours apart earlier Thursday.

U.S. officials had no news yet on the damage caused by the attacks after both aircraft returned safely to the carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, which is on patrol in the Gulf.

Baghdad later denied the attacks, calling the report part of a plot to draw public opinion away from Israel's onslaught on South Lebanon, which has claimed more than 110 lives since Sunday.

"We find no explanation for such a strange statement by the American Defence Department," an official spokesman said in a statement handed to foreign journalists in Baghdad.

"No radar site in the southern region was attacked and no sound of explosions was heard," the spokesman said.

"Iraq categorically denies what has been announced by the Pentagon that two U.S. planes fired today's afternoon two missiles at radar sites in the southern region of Iraq," the spokesman said.

Last Sunday Iraq said U.S. pilots must have been hallucinating when they reported earlie



Arabs to call for Security Council action on Lebanon

Combined agency despatches

DAMASCUS — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa called for Arab unity on Friday to deal with Israel's fierce offensive in Lebanon and to save the Middle East peace process.

His remarks came as foreign ministers from the 21-nation Arab League began a meeting to discuss how to end the violence.

Sources close to the meeting, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the ministers probably would call on the U.N. Security Council to discuss Israel's attacks and to urge the Jewish state to withdraw from South Lebanon.

Mr. Musa told reporters at Damascus airport that "it is necessary to discuss Arab solidarity, the peace process and its continuation and Arab strategy because we are seeking to retrieve Arab land through negotiations that both Arabs and Israel have agreed on."

He added: "That is the essence of the position that should continue until we obtain Arab land and rights."

Lebanese Foreign Minister Fareq Bouez said he would demand an Arab condemnation of Israel, an immediate Israeli ceasefire, unconditional return of the 500,000 people driven from their homes and Arab aid for the refugees.

(Continued on page 10)



Bosnians reach agreement on dividing republic — mediators

Combined agency despatches

GENEVA — Bosnia's warring factions agreed Friday on constitutional principles for a new Bosnian state made up of three republics, international mediators said.

The official said that U.S. pilots throughout the Gulf region were being warned to be more careful in distinguishing the two types of radar.

The USS Abraham Lincoln, he said, had just arrived in the Gulf.

Thursday's incident came only four days after an Air Force F-4G "Wild Weasel" flying in Iraq's southern zone fired a missile at a site after Iraqi radar locked onto the plane.

"We find no explanation for such a strange statement by the American Defence Department," an official spokesman said in a statement handed to foreign journalists in Baghdad.

"There is nothing out of the ordinary about what happened. It was not part of any new initiative," the spokesman said when asked about the incident at the White House.

"It was part of the old understandings under which our planes operate in that area," he added of the so-called rules of engagement involving American warplanes since a U.S.-led coalition drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war.

Mr. Izetbegovic, who had wanted a single, multi-ethnic re-

public, said earlier that he could not accept a draft plan by the international mediators. (see p 8)

The mediators said the draft had been amended. But it was unlikely the amendments would have been significant, given the strength of the Serbs and Croats at the negotiating table and on the battlefield.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman said an overall agreement would be signed Sunday or Monday.

After intensive discussion on a number of drafts, with amendments agreed by all three parties, there is now a constitutional agreement for the union of republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina which will form part of an overall peace settlement," mediators Owen and Stoltenberg said in a statement released by their spokesman, John Mills.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic left the meeting without comment. However, it seemed he had finally given in to intense pressure from mediators and Serbs and Croats to agree to a three-way ethnic partition of the former Yugoslav republic.

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wanted a single, multi-ethnic re-

public, said earlier that he could not accept a draft plan by the international mediators. (see p 8)

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publics of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In a further bow to the Muslim drive to maintain a single state, the agreement says that the new entity would be recognised under international law, as Bosnia would keep its seat at the United Nations.

In Sarajevo, military leaders of

the three warring factions met at the airport Friday to try to end fighting that has left a six-day-old

ceasefire in tatters.

But artillery and sniper killed

seven people and wounded 33

during the morning in Sarajevo.

Oversight an artillery shell

scored a direct hit on the barracks

of Spanish U.N. peacekeepers in

the town of Jablanica in central

Bosnia, killing one soldier

Christopher said to delay trip by 2 days

Combined agency despatches

CAIRO — Egypt said Friday that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's planned trip to the Middle East had been put back by two days.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said before leaving for an emergency cabinet session in the defence ministry at Tel Aviv that "operation accountability" was continuing.

"If the violence against the Lebanese and Palestinians escalates, then the peace talks will explode," Mr. Musa told reporters after meeting President Mitterrand.

Mr. Christopher, who planned the visit to try to revive the deadlocked Middle East peace talks, had been due in Cairo on Saturday and was scheduled to meet Mr. Musa and President Hosni Mubarak Sunday.

"Christopher's trip has been delayed by two days," Mr. Musa told reporters at the airport.

Mr. Christopher, who planned the visit to try to revive the deadlocked Middle East peace talks, had been due in Cairo on Saturday and was scheduled to meet Mr. Musa and President Hosni Mubarak Sunday.

In Washington, the State Department said earlier that there was no change in his plans despite Israel's blitz of southern Lebanon and guerrilla rocket attacks on the Jewish state.

"There are no changes in the secretary's plan to be in the region to work on the peace process next week but I think he would certainly prefer to be focusing on the core substantive issues that are at the heart of the peace talks and not hostilities on the

(Continued on page 10)

OPENING OF PEDIATRIC CLINIC & PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGY CLINIC

Dr. Fawzi AL-Hammouri
Consultant Pediatrician & Pediatric Endocrinologist
Member of the Royal College of Physicians(LONDON)

Member of the British Diabetic Association
Ass. Prof. at the medical school-J.U.S.T (formerly)

Announces the opening of his private clinic
at the Specialty Hospital, Shmeisani Tel. 693693

Middle East News

Shaath says meetings with Israel continue

CAIRO (R) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Thursday that secret meetings with Israel were continuing and the Israelis seemed more receptive to new ideas on Middle East peace at present than the United States.

Nabil Shaath, an adviser to PLO leader Yasser Arafat and one of the Palestinians' main strategists in the peace process, said further meetings had been held since news of the contacts leaked to the Israeli press two weeks ago.

"There is no doubt that the Israeli side at the highest level has authorised and continues to authorise serious meetings with the PLO leadership," Mr. Shaath told Reuters in an interview.

Mr. Shaath said it was still inappropriate to say who was involved, where they had met or exactly what had been discussed. The contacts break one of the last great taboos in Middle East politics, since Israel has always dismissed the PLO as a "terrorist" movement.

But he said that in various contacts between Israelis and Palestinians, two key ideas were being explored to break the current deadlock in the peace process, which began 21 months ago at a historic conference in Madrid.

The first was starting immediate talks on a permanent settlement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip in parallel to the present negotiations on a five-year interim period of self-rule in the territories.

The second was for an early Israeli withdrawal from some occupied areas — the Israelis had suggested the Gaza Strip, the Palestinians had proposed both Gaza and Jericho in the heart of the West Bank.

Mr. Shaath said the Israelis appeared receptive but the United States wanted both sides to stick to the "Madrid rules" under which they should first agree on self-rule and start discussing a permanent settlement only in the third year of the interim period.

"Ways out are in effect blocked so far by the Americans insisting on the Madrid rules," Mr. Shaath said.

The logic of the first idea is that the problems in the self-rule talks really concern "permanent status" issues: What territory will the Palestinians control and, in

particular, whether they will control East Jerusalem.

The aim of the second is to break the interim period into more easily achievable stages: If agreement cannot be reached on self-rule in the whole West Bank and Gaza, at least it can be implemented in two significant areas as a first step.

"The ways out are really either changes in the rules of the game or proper interim measures," Mr. Shaath said.

"As for changes in the rules, such as embarking on parallel negotiations on the permanent status to tackle the issue of Jerusalem straight away and ask for the inclusion of the PLO as the negotiating partner, they seem to be acceptable to the Israelis in one way or another — but not to the Americans, who seem to be zealous about guarding the so-called Madrid rules."

He added: "The second way out is the Gaza-Jericho disengagement idea, which would give an immediate measure on the ground that is satisfactory to the Palestinians as an interim to the interim. That seems to be one idea certainly not rejected by the Israelis but we hear absolutely no compromise from the Americans on it."

Meetings in Egypt

Senior PLO officials met Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa Thursday before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher visits the Middle East in an attempt to salvage the peace talks.

The Palestinian team included Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, Yasser Abd-Rabbo, the PLO's information chief, and Dr. Shaath, one of its main strategists in the peace process.

Dr. Shaath told Reuters before the meeting that the Palestinians had prepared amendments to a U.S. draft paper on Palestinian self-rule but were unlikely to hand them to Mr. Christopher unless the United States changed its position on the crucial issues of Jerusalem and territorial jurisdiction.

An Israeli official said one of Israel's main hopes from the Christopher visit was that the Palestinians would submit a full set of amendments to the U.S. paper.

Khamenei: U.S. could not 'do a damn thing' to Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was quoted Friday as denouncing U.S. efforts to isolate his country and said Tehran was able to purchase weaponry anywhere it wanted.

Tehran Radio quoted Ayatollah Khamenei as saying that despite U.S. and other Western nations' efforts to block weapons sales during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, "even in those conditions we were able to procure sophisticated weapons from the hearts of those very same countries."

Today, he added, "if we need something, we can get it."

He made the comments late Thursday on a visit to the northwestern provincial capital of Tabriz, according to the state-run radio. The broadcast was monitored in Nicosia.

Ayatollah Khamenei described President Bill Clinton as a rookie, saying: "The young, naive individual who has come to power in the United States is unaware of his predecessors' efforts to tighten the economic noose around Iran."

U.S. administrations, he said, "couldn't do a damn thing before, and they can't now."

Ayatollah Khamenei's comments were a response to U.S. efforts to isolate Iran economically.

Iran recently acquired a Russian-built, diesel-powered submarine, the first for a country bordering the Gulf. It is docked at the southern Port of Bandar Abbas while its Iranian crew undergoes training.

A second sub is on its way to Iran, according to shipping sources in the region.

Washington imposed an embargo on trade with Iran after the 1979 revolution, when more than 50 American diplomats were held hostage by Iranian militants for 444 days.

Despite the embargo, the Iranians were able to get spare parts and even anti-tank weapons delivered directly from the United States in what became known as the Iran-contra scandal.

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Home News

BRIEF Political parties expect selective electoral changes, debate impact

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Most of the nation's 20 registered political parties expect the adoption of a one-person-one-vote formula, but no major overhaul to the Election Law, and their officials and members continue to debate possible outcomes of amendments.

At least three political parties have already announced their candidates for the fall legislative elections, but the majority have decided to defer such announcements.

"We cannot decide who is running, how many people are running and where they will run unless we know what the law says about the number of districts, one-person-one-vote and many other issues related to the Election Law," said the current secretary-General of the Democratic Party for Progress in Jordan (DPPJ) Ali Amr.

"The one-person-one-vote formula will only be acceptable if accompanied by a change in the electoral districts to a single electoral district rather than 80," Mr. Amr told the Jordan Times.

Meanwhile, 15 political party leaders last Tuesday sent a letter to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali saying the law "requires reconsideration" through a national dialogue, but stressed that no changes should be introduced without the approval of Parliament.

Most party leaders appear concerned over the eventuality of a change in the Election Law.

Joint platforms and tickets are vigorously being discussed among leftists and pan-Arabs as well as more centre-right parties.

"We are considering a coalition or joint tickets in some cases with nationalist parties such as Al Mustakbal, Al Watan and Yaqza," Secretary-General of Al Ahd Party Abdul Hadi Al Majali told the Jordan Times last week.

Most of the centre-right parties, who have strong tribal back-

ing, are believed to support the one-person-one-vote formula as a first step to broader changes in the Election Law.

Leftists and centrists, as well as the powerful Islamic Action Front, are pushing a package deal in which electoral districts would also be altered to reduce the amount of gerrymandering that is inherent in the current law.

"This will benefit tribally-oriented parties," maintained Secretary-General of the Democratic Party for Progress in Jordan (DPPJ) Ali Amr.

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Majali calls for updating government administration

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali has said the philosophy of the government's central administration should be updated to fit the requirements of today.

At a meeting held Thursday at the Ministry of Finance and attended by heads of departments affiliated to the ministry, Dr. Majali said the government was keen to reduce bureaucracy,

overcome routine procedures and encourage decentralisation in decision-making to assist citizens swiftly and without complications.

He said this change should be started by administrative leaders despite the difficulties and obstacles facing them.

The premier called for expanding meetings between directors of departments and civil servants in order to find a modern concept of the civil service duties.

Crackdown on illegal employees to begin

AMMAN (Petra) — The Labour Ministry is determined to take all necessary measures to control the local labour market and will deal firmly with guest workers employed illegally in the country along with their employers, according to Labour Minister Khaled Al Ghzawi.

In a statement released here Friday, the minister said that lack of cooperation on the part of the employers who have been found violating the labour law and the limited number of ministry inspectors checking on the status of non-Jordanian workers were among the reasons behind present problem.

Furthermore, there has been no plan for locating non-Jordanian Arab nationals who have entered the country, said the minister, in a statement to the Jordan news agency, Petra.

The ministry is currently collaborating with various concerned authorities to control the number of guest workers and to ensure that they have valid work permits, said Mr. Ghzawi.

Appealing to Jordanian employers to cooperate with the Labour Ministry to control the local labour market by giving priority to Jordanian job seekers, Mr. Ghzawi said that strict measures will be taken to deal with offenders.

More inspectors will soon be

Guest workers make up a significant number in the Kingdom's construction labour force touring various companies, factories and other work places to seek out illegal workers, said the minister.

Violators of the law will be fined, and workers employed illegally will be ordered to leave the country.

The minister appealed to the Federation of Jordanian-Labour Unions for assistance in finding work for Jordanian job seekers and to control the number of guest workers in Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

* "ACOR at 25," in celebration of 25 years of archaeological research in Jordan, at the American Center of Oriental Research.

* Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wijdan Ali at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan InterContinental.

* Exhibition of paintings and ceramics by Ali Al Mi'mar, Hazem Al Zu'bi, Abdul Raouf Shammoun and Jalal Ureiqat at Eshbeila Art Gallery, Gta Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.

* Exhibition of British Archaeological projects in Jordan at the Royal Cultural Centre.

U.N. official ends 4-day visit to Jordan Says he will raise sanctions issue with Ghali

By Sausan Ghosheh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — United Nations General Assembly President Stoyan Ganev Friday left Jordan after holding talks with Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al-Majali and other Jordanian officials about the future of the region, the reevaluation of the U.N. role, ongoing cooperation between Amman and the United Nations, and the effect of sanctions on Iraq and the

"We are in the stage in which we must decide the future of the U.N., which world order do we want. Because instead of order we can have disorder," he said.

Since the end of the cold war, the U.N., according to Dr. Ganev, has been able to adopt pro-active rather than reactive measures towards peacemaking. But, in order for the organisation to be able to "lay a solid foundation for preventive action," access to timely and vital information is necessary, he said.

Thus, he added, more fact-finding missions have been conducted in between 1992 and 1993 than in any other prior year.

Sanctions, Dr. Ganev said, were frequently used in the past year to "encourage parties to abide by the positions of the Security Council" and to preserve peace.

Stressing that he understands the pressure sanctions exert not only on the member states against

hurt by the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

"After talks in Amman with government officials and business men," I realise the importance of the problem and I will raise it again with the Secretary General (of the U.N.). We must do our best to adopt the resolution," Dr. Ganev stated.

In order to encourage countries to comply with the sanctions' decision, a permanent fund will be set up by the Security Council to compensate those unfairly affected by such a policy, he said. "It is a matter of efficiency of the U.N. activities."

The role of the U.N. is an longer just peacemaking, but also peace-building; it needs to provide social development and economic opportunity, concluded Dr. Ganev, the first president of the General Assembly to visit Jordan.

During the discussion phase of the meeting, participants de-

clared what they wanted to see in the lack of an international state.

"The challenge ... is the present inability to bring ... and victim ... is a heritage of the country's power," said a member of the Jordanian delegation to the International Peace Conference.

"The U.N. is charged by the Security Council and its mandate is trapped by the U.S., U.K. and France ... in the hole we are in with the Security Council," said a member of the Jordanian delegation to the International Peace Conference.

"In order to encourage countries to comply with the sanctions' decision, a permanent fund will be set up by the Security Council to compensate those unfairly affected by such a policy, he said. "It is a matter of efficiency of the U.N. activities."

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Opinion & Analysis

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Haunting destruction

GENERAL YEHOOSH Dorfman, the commander of the Israeli artillery corps which is responsible for most of the destruction that has been inflicted on Lebanon in the last six days, was no less candid than many of his superiors in the Israeli government when he said that his country's campaign was aimed at reducing the villages and towns of South Lebanon into heaps of rubble. "We are ... firing into the villages in order to cause damage to property ... and create a situation in which the residents will leave the villages and go north," the general said. This man, his soldiers and the Israeli air force seem to be winning on that score, of course. Thousands of South Lebanese are still pouring into Beirut and its suburbs to escape the Israeli created hell while part of Lebanon is turned into another "security zone," albeit a barbed one.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah continues to be defiant and maintains the barrage of rocket attacks on northern Israel. But whether it is Hezbollah guerrilla's attacks or Syrian "negotiation through guns" as Israeli politicians put it, or Iran's insistence on "sabotaging the peace process," the world should be ashamed of what Israel is doing to unarmed people caught in the crossfire of regional powers. It may be true that Hezbollah derives its strength from Iran, but it is definitely truer that that group earns its legitimacy from the Lebanese people themselves, especially those from the south, who want to make Israel withdraw from their occupied lands.

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton can always count on Syria to restrain itself, as he has said, in the face of an Israeli army, which is armed to the teeth with the latest American weaponry. But the U.S. president cannot continue to ignore the basic fact that Israel still refuses to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, exactly at time when he watches every Iraqi move in order to see whether it complies with or violates U.N. resolutions. While Mr. Clinton and the rest of the international community, including the Arab World, continue to bury their heads in the sand and overlook the plight of the Lebanese people and the misery they are being subjected to, the rest of us will neither forget nor forgive the crimes that are being perpetrated against humanity by the Israeli war machine. Hezbollah itself has said on so many occasions that it was willing to halt its attacks on northern Israel if the Israelis withdrew from the south of Lebanon, according to Security Council resolutions. Furthermore, the Lebanese army has expressed readiness to patrol the borders with Israel once the latter withdrew from the self-declared security zone. And, above all, Syria has expressed similar intentions. But it is not Iran, Syria, Hezbollah or the Palestinians who keep the south of Lebanon on fire. It is Israel's insistence on maintaining its occupation of South Lebanon in defiance of international law and legitimacy that is putting its own peace and the whole region's stability at risk. If the Israelis will ever learn their basic lesson in history, only time will tell.

But the misery and destruction they have caused the Lebanese people over the past week are acts that should haunt their conscience and that of the whole world for a long time to come.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

UNDER THE pretext of ending some guerrilla factions' attacks on Israeli positions, the Israelis are launching a genocide and forcing the inhabitants of 30 Lebanese villages to evacuate their homes and move to Beirut, said Sawt Al Shabab daily. Yitzhak Rabin has openly declared war on the civilian population, destroying their homes and killing their children and at the same time, destroying the last chance for any peaceful settlement in the whole region, said the daily. Quoting warnings made by King Hussein in his statement to Al Hayat newspaper Wednesday, the paper said that the world community is not heeding the warnings and not taking any step to stop the atrocities and the aggression. For this reason, said the paper, King Hussein has expressed hope that the Arab Nation will show solidarity with Lebanon, close its ranks and end its side differences in order to confront the common threat. Had Washington and its allies not given Israel the green light to launch its aggression Tel Aviv would not have taken this dangerous step, and had Washington been really interested in making peace between the Arabs and the Israelis, it would not have encouraged Israel to carry out its genocide against the Arab population, added the daily. It is indeed through continued U.S. backing that Israel has defied all U.N. resolutions and has maintained its occupation of Lebanese territory despite Resolution 425 ordering it to pull out from the occupied Lebanese territory, adding the paper. This situation, said the paper, calls for a unified Arab action, starting with the convening of a meeting at the highest possible level and a revival of the Arab defence pact which could deter further Israeli acts of aggression.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that Israel is not after the Hezbollah groups in southern Lebanon but it is seeking to expand the land it has been occupying in the area. This wide-scale aggression is not against groups of guerrillas launching small attacks here and there but is a well-planned conspiracy against Lebanon where Israel seeks more land and more water resources, said Ahmad Al Misheh. Israel does not want a land inhabited by Arabs and therefore it is destroying their homes to force them to leave, he said. Mr. Rabin has openly declared his intention of forcing the Lebanese in the south of the country to move north so that the way can be paved for Israel to carry out its evil intentions, he said. Israel, he said, does not seek peace with Lebanon or any of the Arab parties involved in the so-called peace process, and is seeking to perpetuate its occupation of all the Arab land in Lebanon and Palestine. For this reason, it is finding it hard to achieve that goal, said the writer. But one has to admit also, said the writer, that had it not been for Washington's encouragement and backing of this aggression, the Israelis would not have committed their crimes. He said that the United States is thus losing its credibility as a peace mediator, and it is up to the Arabs to act collectively to stop the aggression.

Jordanian Perspective

By Musa Kellani

Goodwill, clarity of vision should lead quest for confederation

The ongoing debate in Jordan on the proposed Jordanian-Palestinian confederation reflects an opinionated imbroglio of hasty conclusions.

The future of Jordanian-Palestinian relations in a post-peace process era was a subject which remained largely submerged during the past year, His Majesty the King having repeatedly affirmed that debate on the issue was premature. But it resurfaced with two specific events: first when Yossi Beilin, the Israeli deputy foreign minister, raised the issue during discussions with Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator of the peace process who visited the Middle East in July, and then by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat when he publicly expressed his total support for a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation as the formula for post-peace process relationship between the two banks of the River Jordan.

Of course, the idea of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation was always in the minds of Jordanians and Palestinians, and the media used to refer to it off and on prior to the latest attention that it has attracted. Several studies were made.

Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, the current Jordanian premier, conducted a study of the confederation concept in 1987, one year before Jordan severed legal and administrative ties with the West Bank. The study, conducted when Dr. Majali was president of the University of Jordan, outlined the pros and cons of confederal ties between Jordanians and Palestinians and gave particular focus to the repeated fiascos in attempts to bring about cohesive, real unity between the two peoples.

Against the background of the 1984 Palestine National Council (PNC) resolution calling for a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, the study reviewed the Feb. 11, 1985, Jordanian-Palestinian accord on political coordination as well as the 1972 proposal for a united Arab kingdom and the Egyptian moves that killed it. The lessons of the events of September 1970 were incorporated in the study. A suggestion was also made for a united Arab state with a hereditary leadership heading two governments and two legislatures.

Another study was prepared by the late Wasfi Tel, the Jordanian premier who was assassinated in Egypt in 1972. The study was done in 1966, one year before Israel occupied the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. Ahmad Touqan and Al Tel took part in formulating the study.

Though very exhaustive in its analysis, the study did not propose, as Dr. Majali's study did, a constitutional forum of a united Arab state.

Dr. Majali's concept emphasised a hereditary Hashemite line of succession in a united Arab state, where Jordanians and Palestinians will rotate as heads of government and armed forces commanders.

The idea then was to weed out the phobia many East Bank Jordanians had of what they saw as the dangers posed by the economic might and the demographic strength of the Palestinian community. In 1988, they felt that any peace settlement with Israel would only serve to advance the Jewish state's "Jordan is Palestine" slogan and translate it into a reality on Jordanian soil, especially if Palestinians in Lebanon came to the Kingdom.

In this line of thinking, the situation could be further exacerbated when thousands of West Bankers will be forced to leave their ancestral home and settle in a more prosperous and accommodating Irbid, Amman or Zarqa.

It was a genuine phobia that a Palestinian takeover of Jordan was imminent. It even prompted many Jordanian tribal leaders to ask that when they pass away they be buried in their farms so that their sons and successors will hesitate to sell the land.

"The genuine Jordanians," as they called themselves, expressed in many leaflets their real worry of being overswept by up to four million Palestinians coming in through the new gates of confederation from Gaza, Syria, Lebanon and the diaspora, as well as the West Bank. All the newcomers, they felt, had the qualitative edge of better education, better organisation, better politicisation and superior financial clout.

Dr. Majali's formula of rotating government leadership and armed forces command meant to smoothen the frustrations of many Jordanians of Palestinian descent who resented being "treated as second-class" citizens and denied equal opportunities within the higher echelons of power of Jordan.

The proposal suggested that a unitary council be elected to represent the two executive councils — on the two banks of the River Jordan — as well as the two legislative councils.

That was part of the historical setting which actually dates back to the early 1920s when Transjordan became East Jordan and then an emirate created in line with an agreement among Emir Abdullah, Winston Churchill, T.H. Lawrence and Lord Samuel to accommodate a "Palestinian population spillover" caused by the fulfilment of the Balfour Declaration, part of which included the East Bank. It was due to Emir Abdullah's astute political foresight and sagacity that he managed to extract today's Jordan from the Balfour Declaration.

It was due to that 1920 commitment that Jordan offered immediate citizenship to the Palestinians who ended up in the East Bank after the creation of the state of Palestine in 1948. All other Arab states offered Palestinian refugees only a temporary status — legal and otherwise.

But the current heated debate factionalising East Bankers and West Bankers revolves around serious issues that should be addressed fairly and justly; more importantly, frankly and candidly.

Many analysts see Mr. Arafat's statements on confederation as an attempt to use that lofty noble aim to save himself from the political isolation he suffers in Tunis — within the ranks of his own Fatah Revolutionary Council — as well as the Palestinian constituency in the occupied territories where he feels threatened by the young, dynamic leadership which has emerged in the wake of the Middle East peace process. These younger leaders are assertive and they have a rich history of resisting Israeli occupation and of suffering in Israeli prisons while others, who claimed Palestinian leadership, were enjoying the luxury of five-star hotels in the diaspora.

These young Turks are the ones referred to by Dr. Haider Abdal Shafi and Dr. Saeb Erakat when they openly criticised the

ment on the planned Friday meeting in Damascus of Arab foreign ministers as useless and not helping the civilians to return to their destroyed villages nor stimulating the peace process in Jordan.

The columnist, who writes for Al Dustour, recalled that following Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, the Arabs failed to do anything meaningful for Lebanon and indeed they paved the ground for the Palestinian resistance forces to establish their bases in Lebanon.

The Israelis are conducting a war of expansion, aiming to annex more Arab territories, said Mahmoud Al Rimawi, a columnist, in Al Ra'i daily. By forcing the villagers to leave their homes, which are being systematically demolished, the

shortcomings of the PLO leadership.

Mr. Arafat, many analysts believe, fears that the culmination of the peace process will herald a new leadership of Palestinians from within the occupied territories leaving him with little influence or control over them.

It would appear that Mr. Arafat's assumption is based on a hypothesis that if the proposed interim self-government authority in the occupied territories is linked to Jordan through confederation, then, in view of Amman's commitment to its recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Mr. Arafat as its chairman, the formula will be a water-tight conduit for him to realise his life-long ambition of becoming the "president of all Palestinians."

Israel has its own rationale for supporting the confederation proposal. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who voiced support for the idea much before his Foreign Minister Shimon Peres or his deputy Beilin, seeking to preempt an entire series of developments that would otherwise have to take place.

The overall Israeli rationale is that the confederation concept will nullify the Palestinian quest for self-determination and statehood. Being incorporated within a wider entity, the Palestinians will not have to hold elections to a legislative assembly at this stage. Gaza, however, will remain a hot issue since the strip had never been part of Jordan.

Another strong rationale for Israel is the fact that a confederation will expel the Israeli government in its rejection of the return of 1948 and 1967 Palestinian refugees.

Their return to an independent Palestinian state will pose a potential future threat. But their return to a confederated Palestine will guarantee their accommodation and settlement in the East Bank of Jordan since the population density of the West Bank precludes the possibility of their settlement there.

Consequently, Israel's interest in defending the confederation is understandable since it leads to an exemplary application to the Palestinians of what is happening to the Bosnian Muslims — being divided within three political regions, Gaza and the West Bank, the East Bank and the diaspora.

The fragmentation of Palestinians will relieve Israel of all worries about future confrontations and will relegate that issue to be an Arab-Arab topic.

An interim Palestinian self-government is supposed to be in place for five years. During this period there will be a lot of bickering and nagging between Israelis and Palestinians. But with a formula of confederation, this interim period will actually be minimised if not actually cancelled out.

Jordan is expected to take the role of ensuring a limited size and role for the new Palestinian government, much less than that of an independent state but much more than an autonomous entity. That special role is expected to overcome the enigma of Security Council Resolution 242 and its application since what is referred to as "occupied territories" should be returned to sovereign states recognised as such by the U.N. — a status the Palestinians do not enjoy.

Hypothetically, such a course of events will exonerate Israel if it does not return the land to Palestinians or to Jordan, which recognise the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians. Moreover, Jordan's July 1988 decision to sever administrative and legal ties with the West Bank is seen as an effective renunciation of all territorial claims to the occupied territory.

Jordan and the PLO have taken the first concrete step towards eventual confederation by setting up joint committees to scrutinise the various aspects of future relations and arrive at a formula which will alleviate East Bankers' fears of being overswept by confederation and as a sugar-coated term for the ominous "Jordan is Palestine" solution.

The same committees are supposed to find ways and means to eliminate feelings of frustration and "second-class" citizenship among Palestinians. The teams are supposed as well to address the issue of what is called "compulsory Jordanisation" of many refugee camp-dwellers who have been in Jordan since 1948 and defined as Palestinian by the PLO but as Jordanian by Jordan, which sees them on an equal footing with any other citizen from any other part of the Kingdom.

Many questions are raised over the descendants of the refugee camp residents. This middle-aged segment of the Jordanian population is considered genuine Jordanians by many, but the PLO and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees consider them Palestinian.

The six Jordanian-Palestinian committees have to handle this thorny issue and come up with an acceptable formula.

In conclusion, I believe that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship has its roots in history, for centuries, when the Muslims entered Jerusalem. The demographic typology gives certain indications that both peoples share the same tribal Arab ancestry.

Four hundred years ago, Jordan and Palestine were one unit divided along horizontal administrative lines rather than the British-introduced vertical administrative lines. Under the Ottoman administrative patterns, Hebron and Karak shared the same family ties, as were Salt and Nablus, Irbid and Nazareth, Hawranites and Orebites, Masyadeh and Tayahas and many other tribal and bedouin affiliations.

Despite the law and order disturbances of the 1970s, the cohesive values that bind the two peoples are too strong to be marginalised by the tactical gains some politicians want to achieve. Moreover, the strategic interests of both peoples require the optimum of unitarian cohesiveness to confront the threatening challenges both peoples face. Some of these challenges are threats to identity, obliteration and the extinction of national culture.

I believe that goodwill is more important than any formula for a united Arab kingdom or a united Arab state or a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation or a "Palordan."

The two peoples are more like Siamese twins. They have never been separated. Even during the 1922-1952 era, their ties remained intact; both shared aspirations, struggles, joys and miseries.

To separate them now will spell an end to both: culturally, nationally and economically, but foremost of all, politically.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Israeli attacks put peace process in precarious position

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

Israelis are following the example of the Serbs in Bosnia, where the civilian population is continually being evicted from their homes, said the writer.

In the absence of Arab solidarity and closed Arab ranks, the Israeli wolf is being turned into a giant, wreaking havoc in Arab land, killing Arabs and demolishing their homes at will, said Mohammad Subhi in Al Dustour.

The writer said that the weak and frightened Arab regimes should realise that by refraining from taking collective action against the Israeli enemy, they will encourage the new "giant" to swallow up the entire Arab land.

Israel is being encouraged by the United States and the impotence of the Security Council in its brutal aggression on Lebanon, charged Mohammad Kawash in Al Dustour.

By so doing, the United States is applying the so-called new world order in a manner that can only serve Israel, Washington's strategic ally in the region.

The aggression on Lebanon has placed the peace negotiations in balance and undermined the coming tour of the Middle East region by the U.S. secretary of state, said Sawt Al Shabab daily.

Indeed, the new aggression bears the seeds of Israeli threats levelled not only against Lebanon but rather at all the Arab parties involved in the peace process, said the writer.

He said that the aggression on Lebanon is directed against the whole Arab Nation and that their actions against Somalia, Iraq, Libya and Lebanon are but manifestations of this conspiracy.

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Features

Watch that thought — your computer may be listening

By David Thurber

The Associated Press

YOKOSUKA, Japan — Forget keyboards and "mice". Someday, computers and other machines may be controlled directly by human thoughts.

While other researchers struggle to develop computers that can understand human speech, scientists here are trying to go a step further — computers that can read your mind.

"Computers today are very difficult to use," says Nuri Fujimaki, a researcher for Fujitsu Corp. "First you have to be able to type. It would be very nice if you could just think about something, and have the computer automatically do it."

No amount of deep thinking by the scientists makes this an imminent achievement, however.

Researcher Akira Hiraiwa says the goal will probably take years because of the difficulty of deciphering the brain's weak and complex waves. He works at a laboratory here of the telecommunications giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp.

Mr. Hiraiwa and Mr. Fujimaki are studying electrical signals associated with thoughts and body motions. They hope to develop ways of using those signals to control machines — computers or otherwise.

Mr. Hiraiwa has created a computer-assisted robot hand that can mimic motions of a human hand by analysing the tiny nerve pulses sent by the brain to the finger muscles.

The signals are picked up by coin-sized sensors attached to the inside of a watchband and then sent to the computer, which divides them into the messages intended for each finger and instructs the robotic fingers accordingly.

"It's difficult because the signals are so weak and are hard to detect and differentiate," Mr. Hiraiwa says.

In a recent demonstration, Mr. Hiraiwa grasped a ball in his fingers — the watchband strapped to his wrist — and the robotic hand clenched another ball, copying each finger's motion.

It initially took a supercomputer three hours to learn a person's nerve signal patterns, Mr. Hiraiwa says. Now, a much smaller computer with special pro-

sors needs only a few minutes. Mr. Hiraiwa hopes within a few years to develop marketable brain-controlled artificial limbs that would be much easier to use than the cumbersome ones now available.

The NTT researchers have decided to focus on deciphering nerve pulses sent from the brain to muscles, since they are much stronger than the minute signals inside the brain associated with thinking.

Researchers at Fujitsu, a computer and semiconductor maker, have taken a different approach. They are analysing currents the brain generates as people prepare to speak. The currents, though feeble, are stronger than those

linked directly to thoughts.

Using an array of 12 sensors attached to subjects' heads, Mr. Fujimaki is measuring differences in electrical patterns inside the brain when the subjects mentally prepare to "say" different sounds without actually moving their mouths.

Using computers to analyse those patterns, Mr. Fujimaki says he has found "significant" differences between the "mentally spoken" sounds "ah" and "ii."

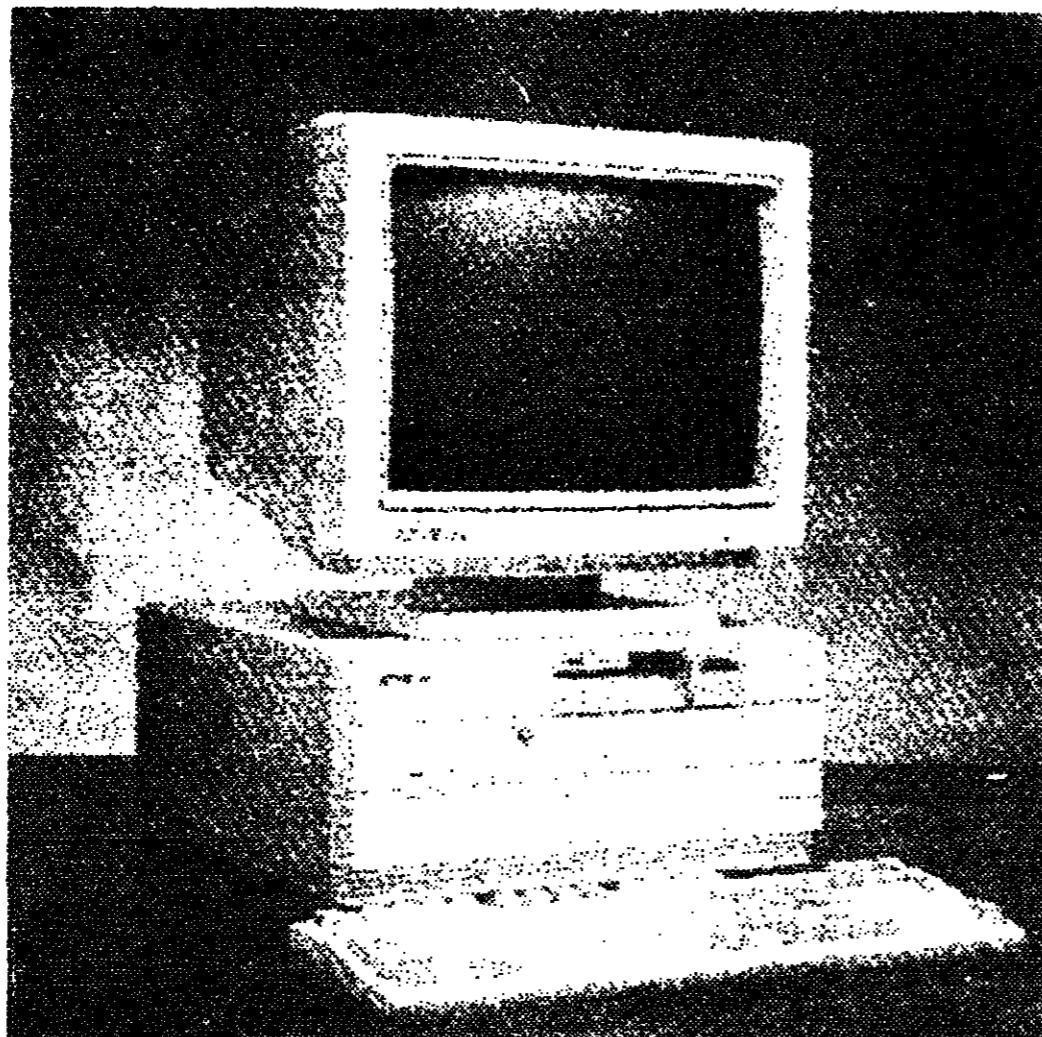
Fujitsu officials say they hope eventually to be able to differentiate the electrical patterns for every different word, which could make direct thought input from the brain into computers possi-

ble. That goal is still a long way off. It's still unclear, for example, whether electrical patterns generated by "mentally spoken" words are related to their sounds, or are some kind of symbolic representation of the concepts behind the words that would be common for all people regardless of their language.

Being able to differentiate so many words would also require incredibly sensitive sensors and massive computer power.

"I'll consider the project successful if within three years we can differentiate the brain signals for 'yes' and 'no,'" Mr. Fujimaki says.

That would at least allow you to turn your computer on and off.



Will human intelligence ever create computer that could read thoughts? A scary question whose answer is for now reassuring: Not soon

Canada under attack in blood scandal

By Deborah Charles

Reuter

MONTREAL — The Canadian government has come under close scrutiny for its role in a tainted blood scandal that a decade ago left nearly 1,000 people infected with the AIDS virus.

One of the gravest complaints is that the government knew that blood contaminated with the virus was infecting haemophiliacs and transfusion recipients, but it waited nearly a year to revamp the system and supply only AIDS-free, heat-treated blood products.

"In 20/20 hindsight it's easy to say we did not do what we should have," said Greg Smith of Health and Welfare Canada. "At the

time, everyone in the world wanted (heat-treated) products... and there was only a certain amount of capacity."

According to letters and memos — some of which were released under the access of information act — glitches in the system appeared to have caused delays that haemophilic groups say cost hundreds of lives.

At least 1,000 people are known to have contracted HIV from contaminated blood and blood products and nearly one third of them have already died, according to figures provided by Canada's Health Ministry.

Israeli attacks defy the world

(Continued from page 4)

Arabs are divided and weak, that the United States grants it full backing and that the United Nations is paralysed.

The writer said that no words of condemnation on the part of the Arab regimes, nor any meetings, can be of help to the Lebanese and Palestinian people at this moment. Only collective action on the part of a united Arab front can ensure the restoration of Arab rights and put an end to Israel's aggression, said the writer.

Aref Jouani, a guest columnist in Al Dustour, said that the Israelis and the Americans are launching aggression on the Arab Nation and asking the Arabs not to protest lest they upset the so-called Middle East peace process.

The writer said that as long as the Arabs are involved in this peace process the door will remain open for more Israeli aggressions on the Arab Nation. Indeed, he said, the present moment is the most opportune for Israel to achieve its objectives in Lebanon and other parts of the Arab World.

Should Warren Christopher's plans go ahead, the U.S. secretary of state will be coming in the Middle East for talks with leaders here to urge them to resume the stalled peace negotiations, said Mohammad Kawash in Al Dustour.

The writer said that the U.S. secretary would surely be trying to find new ways to breach the unity of Arab parties stand vis-a-vis the peace process and the resumption of the talks with Israel.

The writer said that Mr. Christopher, who was recently quoted assaying that the occupied West Bank and Gaza

lease more unemployed young men and women in Jordan, further aggravating the unemployment problem, said Mohammad Kawash.

The Al Dustour columnist said that he did not blame only the Ministry of Education for its teaching system that brought about the failure of this big number, but also the system of accepting students in Jordanian universities, which keeps the door closed before many students.

Mohammad Dabbas, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, said that the parents of the successful tawjih students are now facing a dilemma as they try desperately to see their children enrolled at one of Jordan's universities. It is true that the number of seats are limited, but it is also true that under the Constitution, justice and equal opportunities should be offered to all people, said the writer.

The peace process is 22 months old now, but no tangible results have emerged, said Dr. Fahd Faneq, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. Most observers expect the Arab-Israeli negotiations to fail and collapse and they have doubts about any political solution to the problems of the region.

No matter how hard Washington and Israel will try to ignore Arab rights in Palestine in general and in Jerusalem in particular, there can be no solution without a settlement of the issue of the Holy City and the restoration of Arab rights there, said Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour.

Commenting on Mr. Christopher's planned visit, the writer said that unless the Americans and the Israelis respond favourably to the legitimate demands of the Palestinians, there can be no final settlement to the problem and the Palestinians would not give up the struggle.

The failure of more than 35,000 secondary school students in the Tawjih examination this year is bound to re-

Maps roll back apartheid frontiers

By Rich Mkhondo

Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — Political mapmakers are charting the boundaries of the new South Africa, rolling back apartheid's frontiers and 350 years of white domination at the stroke of a pen.

The 15-member Delimitation Commission is, however, walking a tightrope in trying to accommodate the aspirations of democrats, federalists, nationalists, separatists and those whose political hue defines a label.

Being able to differentiate so many words would also require incredibly sensitive sensors and massive computer power.

"I'll consider the project successful if within three years we can differentiate the brain signals for 'yes' and 'no,'" Mr. Fujimaki says.

That would at least allow you to turn your computer on and off.

"economic viability, functionality, traditional and historical boundaries, demographic characteristics, resources, development potential, infrastructure, culture and language."

The recommendations will be closely watched and fiercely debated by opposing blocs within democracy talks, proponents of a future federal state with powerful regional governments and those who prefer toothless federalist regions and powerful central government.

The white-ruled government and Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) recently produced similar maps of their visions of the future, a coincidence that was not lost on those who accuse the two of collusion.

Most groups and parties envisaged maximum devolution of power and functions, entrenched legislative powers for regions, simultaneous elections for regions and parliament and regional representation in the upcoming transitional parliament.

Both the ANC and the government agree on regions for parts of the Eastern Cape, Natal, Eastern Transvaal and Northern Transvaal and the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging industrial heartland (PWV) while there were differences on the Western Cape, the Orange Free State and Northern Cape.

Political analysts say the commission has to take into account factors including each region's

ANC that Natal province should be one of the regions, partly meeting Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi's demand for an autonomous Natal.

The analysts say given the lack of support for the idea of an independent Afrikaner state within the 26-member groups and parties negotiating the country's transition to democracy an independent state is out of the question.

They say the commission would be guided by the reality that whites are a minority, and Afrikaners were a minority within a minority in most regions.

However proponents of an Afrikaner homeland led by the newly-formed Afrikaner People's Front (AVF) warned they would not surrender their quest for an area where they would exercise self-determination.

To complicate matters Volksfront has proposed republics which would include the old "Boer republics" of Transvaal, Orange Free State and Northern Natal Provinces.

AVF leader ex-General Constant Viljoen has warned negotiators to take their proposals seriously.

"Should we be ignored, the government and the ANC will have to take responsibility for what happens. We are facing a critical period as far as the Afrikaner and his fight for self-determination is concerned."

white mini-state and moderates in favour of autonomy within the new South Africa.

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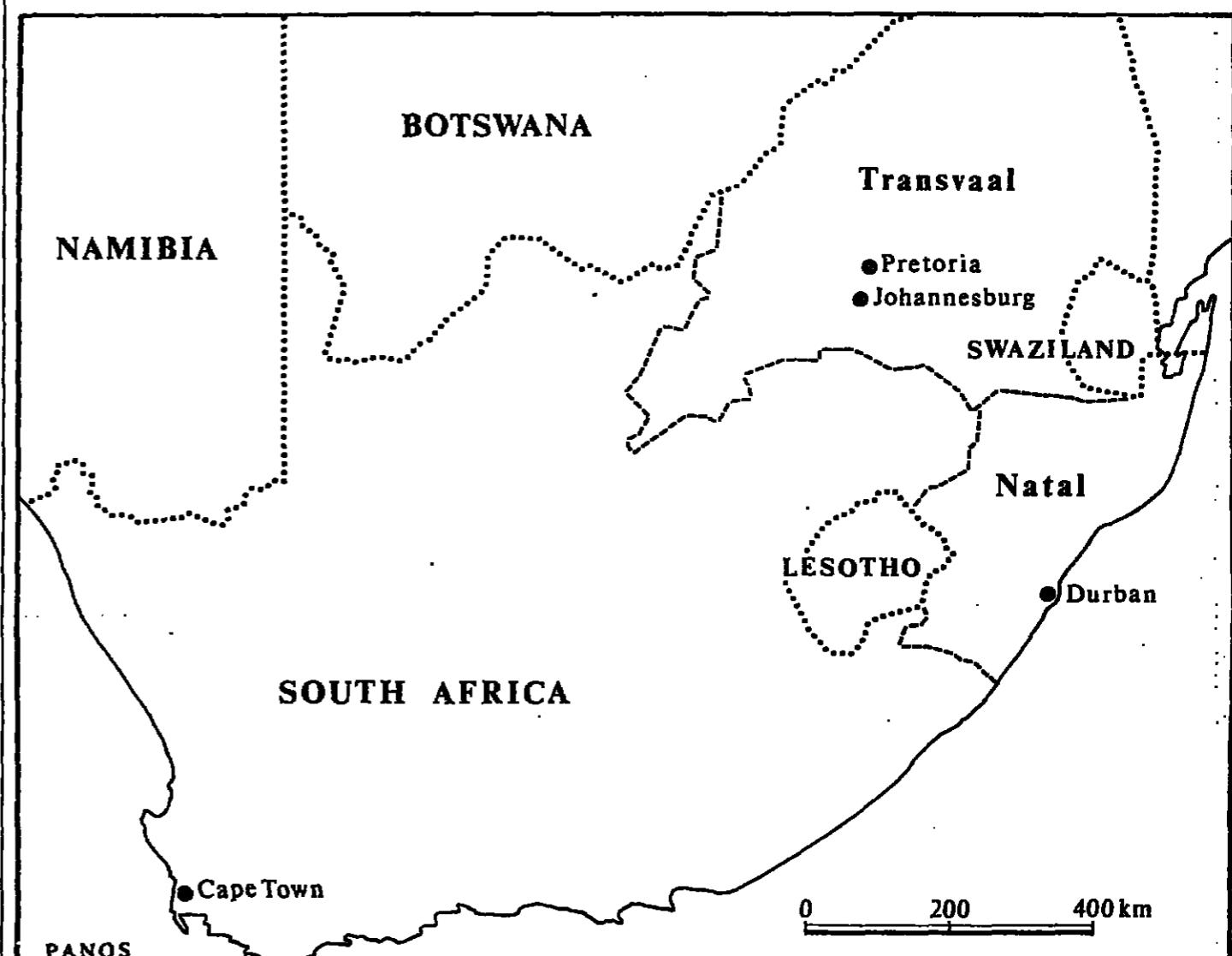
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THE MODERN MONTESSORI SCHOOL (MMS)

P.O. Box 2444, Shmeisani, Amman, Jordan

Telephone: 660504, Fax: 684905

We are pleased to announce that registration for Grades 1, 2 and 3 is open for the scholastic year 1993/1994 at our current location in Shmeisani until completion of construction of the new school building, at which time registration for Grades 4 to 6 will start for the scholastic year 1994/1995. The school will upgrade the classes yearly allowing the students to reach high school without any delays.

Registration hours: From 8:15 and from 4:45.

Last date for accepting applications: August 18, 1993

The construction of the new school building is currently ongoing on an 18,000m² land opposite the King Hussein Medical City. The school has been designed to meet international school requirements and will be equipped in accordance with the Montessori system, with modern equipped laboratories, library, cafeteria, gallery, indoor swimming pool, gymnasium, indoor and outdoor playgrounds.

Our philosophy, goals, and objectives:

Our philosophy and objectives are to provide a stimulating, prepared environment for the student in order to foster respect for learning, joy in achievement and growth of the individual through independence, discovery, success and inner discipline.

Our programme is mostly individualised and will always keep the students as the foremost priority.

The school is organised to encourage a high level of cooperative planning, teaching and evaluating designed to produce success in advancing the learning process.

All our Montessori classrooms are totally equipped with specially designed and sequenced materials which Dr. Montessori devised. These materials, together with highly trained and Montessori certified management and teachers, provide a classroom where the child is stimulated and challenged, but never pressured.

Our main objective is to achieve the following goals for each student:

- 1) Develop a positive attitude towards him/herself, school and life.
- 2) Become a self-confident, independent learner.
- 3) Develop habits of concentration for his/her work.
- 4) Foster curiosity in the student.
- 5) Develop initiative and persistence.
- 6) Achieve inner security and sense of order.
- 7) Help each student develop his sensory motor skills.
- 8) Sharpen his/her ability to discriminate and judge.
- 9) Assist social development.
- 10) Develop creative intelligence and imagination.

In conclusion, we are dedicated to helping each student develop within himself the fundamental skills, habits, attitudes, appreciations and ideas which are essential for a lifetime of creative learning.

"Never let a child risk failure until he has a reasonable chance of success," Dr. Maria Montessori.

NOTICE

JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY PREQUALIFICATION OF CIVIL WORKS CONTRACTORS

AQABA THERMAL POWER STATION

STAGE II

TENDER NO. 59/93

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) intends to issue tender forms for prequalifications of civil works contractors for the extension of Aqaba Thermal Power Station-Stage II. The Stage II expansion project consists of 2x130 MW fuel oil fired steam generating units cooled by sea water. The civil works contract involves large sophisticated civil works such as foundation works for the steam turbines, generators, boilers, and for all other mechanical and electrical auxiliary equipment as well as supply and installation of yard piping, all concrete and structural works, excavations, roads, drainage systems, etc. It is expected that local and international contractors with experience in this type of work would participate in this tender. Due to the special type of works covered by the civil works tender and the need of specialised experience, it is expected that some type of joint-venture between local contractors and international contractors shall be introduced.

The construction work is expected to commence on site in May 1994 and the project is expected to be financed by Arab and International development funds in addition to the self-financing by JEA.

Contractors with experience in above described work shall apply for prequalification in accordance with the forms issued by JEA.

Forms of prequalifications will be available from:

JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT JABAL AMMAN-SEVENTH CIRCLE TEL: 815615 P.O. Box 2310 AMMAN-JORDAN

Starting from Saturday 31/7/93 for a non-refundable fee of JD150 for each set (2 copies each) payable to JEA. The last day for accepting the filled-in prequalification forms will be Wednesday 1/9/1993 before 12:00 noon at the Tendering Committee Secretary, JEA Offices-Amman.

Economy

Gold bursts through \$400

EC currency grid fights for survival

PARIS (R) — The European Community's (EC's) exchange rate grid tottered on the edge of collapse Friday as central banks fought furiously to fend off a huge speculative attack on the system's weaker currencies.

Traders said the central banks faced overwhelming odds and predicted the demise of the semi-fixed exchange rate mechanism (ERM), one of the European Community's enduring achievements.

But top officials from Paris and Bonn, which form the EC's main political axis, refused to give in.

Conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, who has said he would resign rather than leave the ERM was still alive and kicking.

"There are rules and these rules are working well. They are made for situations like this very one," he told reporters.

A senior monetary official in Bonn added: "Up to now the intervention of the central banks has been sufficient to convince the markets that we will remain firm. We are optimistic, but the storm is not over."

The view on the currency markets, where an estimated \$1 trillion a day changes hand, was very different.

Few if any traders believed an overhaul of the ERM meant to be the springboard to full-blown economic and monetary union

with a single European currency, could now be staved off.

Influential U.S. investor George Soros, who made \$1 billion betting correctly last September that the British pound would have to quit the ERM, said it was now futile to shield the grid.

Mr. Soros, who had pledged Monday not to speculate against the franc because he did not want to be accused of destroying the ERM, said he now felt free to resume trading in the franc.

Traders speculated that the Bank of France had almost exhausted its currency reserves and that only massive buying by the Bundesbank, Germany's central bank, was preventing the franc from falling below its ERM floor of 3,4305 francs per mark.

The two banks opted to make their last stand for the franc at 3,4305 after suddenly abandoning attempts — at untold cost — to support the French currency at 3,4180 francs per mark.

Although the system was intact at the end of Friday afternoon, rumours were rife that France, along with Denmark, Belgium, Portugal and Spain, would have to devalue perhaps as early as this weekend. The mark would be revalued upwards.

Belgium's budget minister said no meeting of the EC monetary committee had been set, but one Paris diplomat said an orderly realignment might now be the

only solution.

Alternatively, the ERM, set up in 1979 to provide the exchange rate stability the EC's common market needed to thrive, might be suspended and currencies allowed to float.

Mr. Balladur, who discussed the crisis this morning with Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, was asked if the rules of the ERM could go on being applied for long. "That depends on the goodwill of each and everyone," he replied.

In France, there was no doubt who was to blame for the latest crisis, the third onslaught on the franc within a year.

Economists said the Bundesbank, by refusing to make anything other than a token cut in interest rates on Thursday, had wilfully ignored the desperate need of its neighbours for lower interest rates to fight recession and rising joblessness.

Financial markets made the simple calculation that France and others would rather sacrifice their currencies than keep the cost of money at politically intolerable levels.

Gold traded above \$400 an ounce on Friday for the first time since the Gulf war in January 1991 after U.S. investment fund buying propelled it through the crucial barrier overnight, dealers said.

Adolphus Busch, a native of southern German state of Bavaria, acquired the rights to sell beer

Renowned Czech beer maker seeks foreign partner

PRAGUE (AP) — As Czech industry rushes toward privatisation, even the brewery that made Budweiser famous has to change.

Whether new Czech capitalists or the American brewers of "The Bud" have the most say in the transformation of the Budvar brewery remains to be seen, as the trademark of the Czechs' rich beer tradition moves ahead on two fronts.

The government is preparing to auction off a minority stake in the brewery, and let ordinary Czechs become shareholders through its voucher scheme to privatise Czech industry.

At the same time, Budvar managers are negotiating a possible merger with Anheuser-Busch, the producer of the Czechs' American namesake — Budweiser.

Privatisation Minister Jiri Skalicky has said that a government stake in Budvar not exceeding 34 per cent would be sold at auction to the highest bidder.

The sale of only a minority stake reflects the fear of tradition-bound beer drinkers that the prized Budvar brewery could be sold out to foreigners.

Budvar, located in the southern Bohemian town of Ceske Budejovice — known as Budweis in German — has brewed its namesake beer since the 19th century.

Adolphus Busch, a native of southern German state of Bavaria, acquired the rights to sell beer

under the Budweiser name in North America in the early 20th century. The beer's success soon made his company, Anheuser-Busch, the world's largest beer producer.

Budvar by comparison is small, and Czechs fear its home-brewed quality, known throughout the world, could be lost to mass production. Budvar employs 348 people with annual production of 65 million liters (136.5 million pints).

Under privatisation rules, a portion of shares in the state-owned brewery would be distributed among Czech citizens. After the minority stake is auctioned, it is not known if the government plans to retain any stock in the brewery.

Budvar managers, meanwhile, are talking to Anheuser-Busch and other foreign brewers about a possible merger.

"We talked to Busch and also a number of other major beer producers," Budvar Director Jiri Bocek said in a telephone interview. "It is too early to say anything, but the fate of the brewery is being decided now."

The hardest part of the bargaining process is likely to be the estimate of trademark costs.

A merger would open vast new territories for the American giant. It could also mean that other Czech breweries would have to seek foreign capital to help fight increasing competition.

Cuba to go slow on economic reform

HAVANA (R) — Cuba's communist government told its citizens Thursday that a move to legalise the use of hard currency would be introduced only gradually because new special shops needed to be set up to cope with the increased demand.

"It is necessary to make clear that the measures announced on July 26... can only be applied gradually," the government said in a brief official statement published on the front page of the Communist Party newspaper Granma.

President Fidel Castro said Monday night the government would remove a ban on Cubans owning convertible currency like U.S. dollars as part of a series of measures aimed at boosting the state's hard currency earnings at a time of economic crisis.

The Granma statement was intended to head off a stampede by Cubans to try to spend the dollars they already had in a few existing hard currency stores reserved for tourists, diplomats or other foreigners on the communist-ruled Caribbean island.

Foreign diplomats said the authorities clearly wanted to carefully control the new opening and avoid a dollar-spending free-for-all that could result in public order problems.

Many Cubans who had tried to enter some tourist and diplomatic dollar shops in Havana this week were disappointed to be told that these were still for foreigners only.

"The commers has not been properly prepared yet for it to come into effect immediately," the official statement said.

It added special shops needed to be set up where Cubans would be able to spend hard currency.

Granma said the government would need to draw up and pass a number of decrees and laws removing the previous ban on hard currency ownership and regulating its future use.

"These are being prepared so that everything can be done in an orderly and legal fashion," the statement said.

Cubans had been eagerly waiting to give them access to a whole range of food and consumer goods which are currently very scarce and not available through the state rationing system, which sells in Cuban pesos.

Among those who have access to hard currency are Cubans sent by family members abroad, those who work in tourism and can receive tips and sports and cultural personalities and Cuban professionals who work abroad.

Legislating the use of dollars in Cuba would hasten the end of the U.S. embargo against Cuba and create a two-tiered society of those with and without access to dollars, economists have said.

Economist Arturo Villar said legalising the use of dollars would expand the Cuban market and encourage U.S. companies to turn up the pressure on Washington to drop the embargo.

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, JULY 31, 1993

NEWS IN BRIEF

Qatar to set up central bank

DUBAI (R) — The Gulf state of Qatar has said it would set up a central bank to replace the existing Qatar Monetary Agency (QMA) carrying out virtually all central banking functions. The official Qatar News Agency said the decision to set up a central bank was taken at the weekly meeting of the cabinet in Doha. The agency gave no reasons for the move. The QMA was set up in 1973 when Qatar issued its own currency, the riyal.

Oman to expand cement plant

MUSCAT (AP) — Oman Cement Company, the sultanate's biggest cement plant, is to undergo a major expansion at a cost of 42 million riyals (\$109 million), a market official has said. It is to be financed in part by a public issue of shares in September to raise 30 million riyals (\$78 million), said Mahmoud Bin Mohamad Al Jarwani, director-general of Muscat Securities Market. The company, now fully owned by the government, hopes to obtain the rest of the money through soft loans, he said. The expansion will raise capacity to 3,000 tonnes a day from the current 2,000.

China beefing up its meat industry

PEKING (R) — China's newly-wealthy consumers are changing their diets, forcing the country to beef up its meat industry, the China Daily Business Weekly has said. In poorer times, Chinese ate mostly vegetables, rice and noodles, with meat reserved for special occasions and memorable feasts. Now, higher incomes have made many meat mad. Meat production is expected to hit 37 million tonnes in 1993 and 42 million tonnes in 2000, up from about 28.5 million tonnes in 1990, the newspaper said. The ministry of agriculture is pumping more than \$5 billion in investment into the meat industry between 1991 and 2000 to meet the new demand for meat. Even the kind of meat Chinese eat is changing. Where once Chinese turned to pork when they wanted meat, the new plans call for a cut in pork production and increases in beef, mutton and poultry.

Tanzania to set up stock market

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — Tanzania plans to introduce a stock exchange to help speed up enforcement of the government's privatisation plans, Finance Minister Kigoma Malima has said.

The Tanzanian government is in the final stages of opening a stock exchange — to speed privatisation, Mr. Malima told Reuters. "The privatisation of state enterprises cannot meaningfully succeed without a stock exchange and money market for mobilising equity," he said. Mr. Malima did not say when the exchange would be opened but a senior official at his ministry said it would be within "months." Mr. Malima, a former university economics professor, said the government had already pushed legislation through parliament allowing individual Tanzanians to buy shares in state firms.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JULY 31, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Take some time today to study the finest philosophies ever expounded by men of insight and faith so that you can draw great minds to you and live a fuller, richer life in the future.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Consider well the wishes of your own clan early before you decide

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A new activity is of much interest to you but there are some factors you are not aware of that must be wisely handled before accepting them.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can please on whose feelings are on his/her sleeve but later you find the person was not satisfied at all and needs more assurance of your affection.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can please on whose feelings are on his/her sleeve but later you find the person was not satisfied at all and needs more assurance of your affection.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You start daily activities in good shape but soon get tired of them or want to make some changes that are not satisfactory to everyone concerned.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You now find that whatever pleasures appeal to you in the daytime requires more attention and effort to make work than you have realised so be prepared for such.

Australia cuts credit rates

SYDNEY (R) — The Reserve Bank of Australia cut official interest rates Friday to help revive Australia's flagging economic recovery and bolster business confidence.

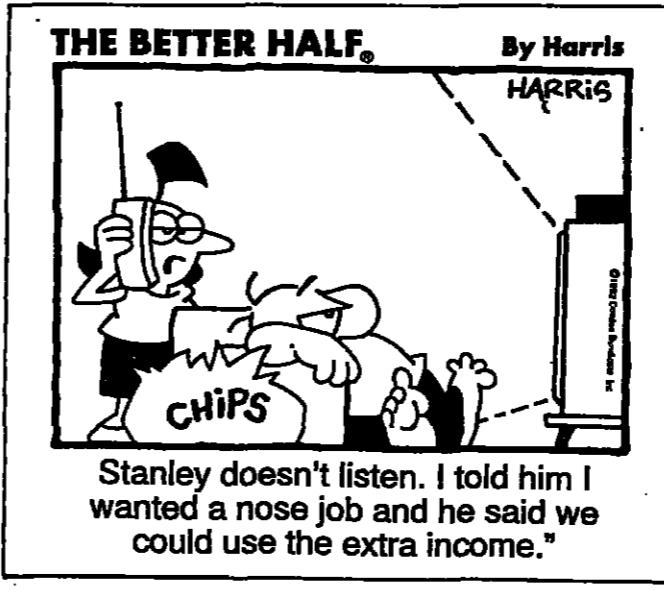
The central Reserve Bank trimmed its official cash rate to 4.75 per cent from 5.25 per cent, the 15th such cut since January 1990 and the second since Paul Keating won election.

"This action, which follows deliberations of the board (of the Reserve Bank) and consultations with the treasurer, in response to continuing slow growth and low inflation," said Reserve Bank Governor Bernie Fraser.

Mr. Fraser said most indicators of the economy suggested the country's economic recovery was growing at a modest rate. Annualised output expanded by 2.5 per cent in the March quarter while unemployment was firmly lodged above 11 per cent.

"Consumer spending has been restrained and business investment is not yet providing the impetus necessary to sustain a solid recovery," Mr. Fraser said.

Stanley doesn't listen. I told him I wanted a nose job and he said we could use the extra income."



JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TUSEG

VELED

VENAHE

FOUNSI

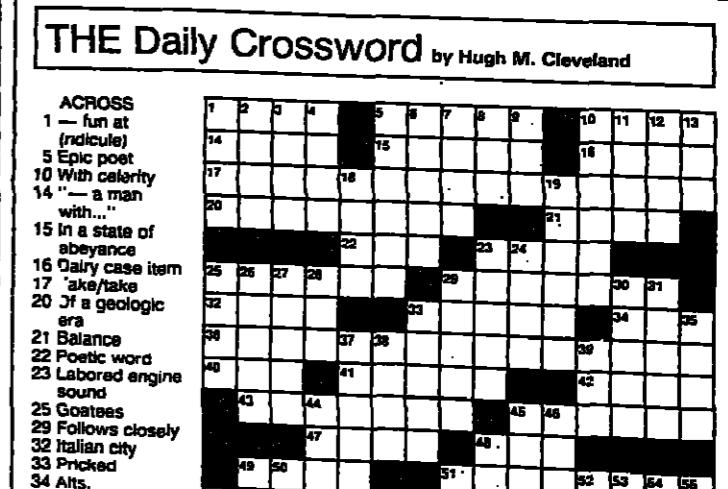
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: RHYME AUDIT BUSHEL EMPLOY

Answer: Often leads to a tough steak—A BUM STEER



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

MAIL ALBINE SLEPT
TOMMYBUDS AMBER
SEABROOK ALBINA
PIE ALBER

SPICE OUDIN LICKED
MOVIES CRADLE FABER
LITERATE LIPIDE
JUVENILE SPECIE
FLASH BANTS ASKED
GULLING BAGITIUS
LUDIC ABILIS ATTIC
DIPLOMATIC CARPENTER
LUDIC ABILIS ATTIC

WORD WITTY TIED
LUDIC ABILIS ATTIC

YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Izetbegovic rejects compromise plan; U.N. peacekeeper killed

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Military commanders of Bosnia's three warring factions met to discuss imposing the latest ceasefire shortly after a Spanish peacekeeping soldier died and 17 others were wounded in an artillery attack Friday.

Bosnia's political leaders meeting in Geneva had ordered the ceasefire Thursday, but the peace talks suffered a setback when Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic rejected a compromise aimed at ending the republic's 16-month-old war.

Mr. Izetbegovic told reporters Friday he did not agree to a plan under which post-war Bosnia would become "the United Republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina," although diplomats cautioned against regarding this as an outright rejection and said serious negotiations were continuing.

The night-time shelling of the Spanish U.N. soldiers, who were in their sleeping quarters in the central Bosnian town of Jablanica, was the latest in a series of attacks on peacekeeping troops in Bosnia in recent days.

The commander of U.N. forces in Yugoslavia, General Jean Cot, expressed his "horror and dismay" at the incident and ordered an investigation to determine who was responsible.

U.N. troops did not return fire or otherwise retaliate, despite a threat to do so from the U.N. Bosnia commander. General Francis Briquemont, after French U.N. soldiers were shelled in Sarajevo last weekend.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, who initially accused Muslim forces of staging the attack, said Friday that Serb gun-

ners may have fired at the French by mistake.

"The commander of the brigade which operates in the area from which the attack was possibly launched has already been discharged and at this moment the persons who are suspected to be responsible are being arrested," Mr. Karadzic said in a letter to world leaders.

Gen. Cot said the investigation into the shelling of the Spanish troops would show whether the Bosnian military commanders who gathered at Sarajevo Airport were serious in their desire to stop fighting.

The commanders — Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladic, Bosnian Croat General Milivoj Petkovic and Rasim Delic, commander of the Muslim-held Bosnian government forces — arrived at the airport in separate armoured vehicles.

The meeting was chaired by Gen. Cot, who was accompanied by Gen. Briquemont.

The Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency reported that the Bosnian Serb army had been ordered to halt combat activities from noon (1000 GMT) Friday.

The army's deputy commander, General Milan Gvero, was quoted as saying his forces would respect the truce but did not rule out the right to self-defence.

Earlier Friday, shelling erupted in Sarajevo and on both fronts to the north of the capital. But after reports indicated the capital and the northern front around Brcko were quiet.

Gen. Briquemont said the Geneva negotiators had asked that all Bosnian military leaders and the United Nations should meet everyday in Sarajevo to de-

termine who was responsible for any ceasefire violations.

"Today is the day that combat activities are to cease. The investigation into the shelling incident in Jablanica should be a first test of the cooperation of each party to participate in this process," Gen. Briquemont said in statement.

"Moreover, we trust it will be an important test of the goodwill of each party to actively participate in the peace process overall."

Mr. Izetbegovic's remarks in Geneva contradicted statements by other members of his presidency that the Muslim leadership would accept the union plan, but with changes.

Diplomats cautioned against regarding Mr. Izetbegovic's rejection as outright, saying that the presidency had tabled amendments to the plan and seemed to be negotiating seriously.

Mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg presented the union plan Thursday in a bid to cut through rival demands that Bosnia should become a loose confederation of ethnic mini-states, as proposed by Serbs and Croats, or a federation with a stronger central government as suggested by the Muslims.

The idea has been largely welcomed by the Bosnian Serbs, who control 70 per cent of Bosnia.

Agreement on constitutional arrangements for post-war Bosnia would be a big step forward, though the rival factions would still have to agree on a territorial carve-up.

Meanwhile the U.N. military spokesman in Sarajevo said

Thursday U.N. forces in Bosnia do not need air cover to fulfil their mission now and hope it will never have to be used.

Commander Barry Frewer also cautioned Western powers against mounting air strikes against Bosnian Serbs, saying that only the commander of U.N. forces on the ground had the authority to request and recommend air cover for his troops.

Maj. Frewer's remarks to a group of reporters appeared designed to play down speculation that air strikes by NATO warplanes on the United Nations behalf may be imminent.

The United States is seeking NATO and Russian agreement for the use of air strikes to force Bosnian Serbs to halt their attacks on Sarajevo, a U.S. State Department official said Friday.

Consultations are underway with Britain and France and will follow during the weekend with Spain, the Netherlands, Germany and Russia as well as with members of Congress, said the official speaking only on condition of anonymity.

If the allies agree, the air campaign would be a significant step beyond plans to use air strikes to protect United Nations peacekeeping forces in Bosnia.

The official said the move toward military action was an acknowledgement that "the diplomatic track" had failed to secure safe areas for the Bosnian Muslims.

He said that the allies could conduct a far more aggressive air campaign than previously contemplated, striking at Serbian forces without waiting for further provocation.



Victorious Liberal-Democrat candidate Diana Maddock is all smile early 30 July as the vote in the Christchurch by-election overturned a Conservative safe-seat for more than 80 years and was the largest upset to the conservatives since World War II. Diana Maddock won 62 per cent of the vote. Left, is her husband Robert. (AFP photo)

Major's party admits bad poll defeat

CHRISTCHURCH, England (R) — Britain's ruling Conservative Party suffered its biggest defeat at a parliamentary by-election for nearly 50 years Friday, capping a disastrous year for Prime Minister John Major's government.

The centrist Liberal Democrats routed the Conservatives in one of their safest seats with a 35 per cent swing, the biggest, since World War II.

A conservative majority of 23,015 at the April 1992 general election in Christchurch was turned into victory for Liberal Democrat Diana Maddock by a margin of 15,427 votes.

Conservatives acknowledged the result reflected deep dissatisfaction with a government which has suffered crisis after crisis in the past 15 months.

"It's a very bad result and there's no question about that," said Conservative Party Chairman Sir Norman Fowler.

Sir Norman denied the voters of Christchurch, a genteel seaside town which had voted "Tory" for 84 years, had given Mr. Major, the most unpopular premier in modern times, a slap on the face.

He said Mr. Major had shown brave leadership by forcing the bill to ratify the Maastricht Treaty through parliament via a committee motion last week, outsmarting Conservative rebels who had dogged the bill's passage every step of the way.

The Conservatives, in office since 1979, have not won a by-election since February 1989. In May they lost the Newbury by-election to the Liberal Democrats after a 28 per cent swing.

However, Sir Norman pointed out that although his party lost seven seats at by-elections in the 1987-1992 parliament, they won them all back at the April 1992 election.

The main opposition Labour Party suffered the ignominy of losing the £500 (\$750) deposit necessary to enter the by-election because it did not win a large enough share of the vote, a repeat of their dismal Newbury performance.

Party leaders insisted Labour was still the only viable alternative to the Conservatives. They called on Mr. Major to change tack and listen to the people.

The result cut the governing party's majority to 17 in the 651-seat parliament, piling pressure on Mr. Major as he struggled to heal splits in his party and restore his eroded authority.

Sir Norman told BBC radio: "The voters have been affected

by the image of us as a disunited party over last nine to 12 months. Happily that is now behind us although it's unreal to think the public would appreciate that."

"This is a verdict on past events and not on the future," said Sir Marcus Fox, a key power broker in the party. "There are lessons to be learnt and the public have not been impressed with us, there's too much evidence of a divided party."

Mrs. Maddock, a 48-year-old teacher, said her victory was helped by Mr. Major's plans to introduce a consumer tax on heating fuel next year, a deeply unpopular move among old people who make up one third of the Christchurch electorate.

"Change your policies or change your job," she told Mr. Major in her victory speech after becoming the Liberal Democrats' 22nd member of parliament.

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China becoming country of personal pagers

PEKING (R) — China's phenomenal economic growth is being outpaced only by a rise in the number of people wearing personal pagers. By June 30 the number of pager users in China had reached 2.21 million, up from none seven years ago, the Xinhua News Agency said. Pagers are fast becoming a necessity in China, a country where private telephones are still very rare and expensive. At present, 1,075 Chinese cities and towns have opened paging services, the official agency said. In Peking alone, there are 300,000 users, double the number last year. Cinema showings are constantly interrupted by the sound of pagers, leading to the popularity of silent, television models. For the true nouveau riche, however, a pager is now passe. Only a portable telephone will do as a sign of wealth.

Thai minister says no to Madonna show

BANGKOK (R) — Pop idol Madonna will not be allowed to strut her stuff in front of hundreds of thousands of adoring Bangkok fans because it would offend Thai ethics and culture, a minister has ruled. "If she strips off her clothes in front of the audience, could we tolerate that?" Education Minister Samphorn Thongsamak was quoted in Thursday newspaper as asking.

"That would be against Thailand's ethics and culture and totally unacceptable," Madonna would definitely not be allowed to perform at the huge National Stadium where Michael Jackson is due to appear on Aug. 25, he said, although she could hold her show in a smaller, more intimate venue like a theatre. Madonna, who has tested the limits of what is acceptable onstage with her sexually graphic performances and provocative outfits, is said to be considered an Asian tour with Bangkok as the base.

"This is a devastating rejection of John Major," said Labour leader John Smith. "No matter how desperate John Major may be to put all this behind him during the holiday period we will not allow him to draw any lines in the sand."

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Clash puts Abkhazia truce under pressure

TBILISI (Agencies) — Georgian forces and separatist rebels in the province of Abkhazia clashed overnight, putting fresh pressure on their two-day-old ceasefire.

A Georgian army spokesman in the Abkhazia regional capital of Sukhumi said Friday the two sides clashed near the villages of Shroma and Akhalsheni set in hills overlooking the city.

The clash "took on a broad character involving use of heavy equipment and artillery," said the spokesman.

Sports

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Sampras, Courier, Becker eliminated

MONTREAL (R) — Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras and third-seeded Boris Becker were eliminated Thursday at the 1.65 million Player's Ltd. International Tennis Tournament.

In yet another upset, second-seeded Jim Courier was ambushed 6-3, 6-2 by Swede Mikael Pernfors, ranked 45th in the world.

Fourth-seeded Ivan Lendl and 11th-seeded Andre Agassi moved into the quarterfinals.

Courier's loss followed two defeats in the finals of the French Open and Wimbledon.

The top-seeded Sampras, ranked number-one in the world, looked lethargic in a 7-6, (8-6) 6-3 loss to New Zealand's Brett Steven.

Becker tried valiantly, but lost a 7-5, 7-6 (7-3), third-round duel to 13th-seeded Todd Martin.

"I simply played a bad match on a bad day," said Sampras. "I'm going to wake up tomorrow and it's a new day. He played good tennis so he deserved to win the match."

The seventh-ranked Lendl posted a 6-7 (9-7), 6-1, 6-2 victory over Aaron Krickstein.

Agassi, defeated fifth-seeded Michael Chang 7-6 (7-3) 6-3.

Steven, sensing Sampras was having an off-day and was impatient on-court, played smart tennis. He kept the ball deep and slow, never giving Sampras any pace to get into a groove.

"It feels very good but I think it will sink in a little better in a little while," said Steven, of beating the best in the game. "I'm in a little bit of a daze right now."

Martinez advances

In Stratton Mountain, Vermont top seeded Conchita Martinez led the way into the quarterfinals of the 375,000 Women's Hardcourt Tennis Tournament by easily past Jeri Ingram of the United States 6-1, 6-1 Thursday.

Joining Martinez in the final eight of the week-long hardcourt tournament were third seeded Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic, fourth seeded Manuela Maleeva-Fagniere of Switzerland, and fifth seeded Zina Garrison Jackson of the U.S.

Martinez needed just 43 minutes to overpower Ingram as the Spanish star took leads in both sets. Ingram managed to break serve in the fourth game of the first set and in the second set she held serve in the fourth game to get on the scoreboard.

Sukova struggled for nearly two hours to beat veteran Kathy Rinaldi of the United States 3-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-1. Rinaldi was just two points away from victory at 5-5 in the tiebreaker, but lost the next two points. In the third set, Rinaldi lost the last five games.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIFF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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BRIDGE IS A TOUGH GAME

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH ♦ 7 3 ♠ A K Q 9

♦ K 6 4 ♠ A 10 9 2

WEST ♦ K 10 ♠ Q J 8 5 4

♦ 6 2 ♠ 7 5

♦ A 9 8 2 ♠ Q 10 3

♦ 8 7 6 5 3 ♠ K J

SOUTH ♠ A 6 2 ♠ J 10 8 4 3

♦ J 7 5 ♠ Q 4

The bidding: North East South West

1 NT 2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

When four experts sit down to play rubber bridge, life is never easy. Here's a typical example of what can occur at the table.

Note that East-West showed no inclination to sacrifice against four hearts even though the vulnerability was favorable. Since North-South would still be 3-to-1 favorites to win

Christie faces tougher test in Cologne

BONN (R) — Even with the cash from Friday's showdown with Carl Lewis tucked reassuringly under his mattress, Linford Christie may struggle to sleep before one of his toughest races of the year in Cologne Sunday.

The British Olympic sprint champion will clash with in-form American champion Andre Cason for the first time this season at the Cologne Grand Prix.

The lucrative 100 metres duel with world champion Lewis at Gateshead in Northern England has attracted all the publicity and the money.

Lewis and Christie have been paid a total of \$30,000 for the showdown.

But the race on the banks of the Rhine will say more about the 100 metres form book before next month's World Championships in Oslo July 10.

The American, nine years younger than his British rival, ran the heats but was forced to pull out of the final because of a virus as Christie took the honours.

Christie has bad memories of the Muengesdorfer Stadium after suffering a defeat by Nigerian Olapade Adeniken last year just a week after the end of the Barcelona Olympics.

After a late start to the season, the 33-year-old Christie has been in dominant form in the past month.

But Cason blasted ahead of world record holder Lewis and Olympic Bronze medalist Dennis Mitchell on his way to a wind-assisted 9.85 seconds at the U.S. championships in June.

After beating Lewis again in Lausanne earlier this month, Cason planned to take on Christie in Oslo July 10.

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Christie has bad memories of the Muengesdorfer Stadium after suffering a defeat by Nigerian Olapade Adeniken last year just a week after the end of the Barcelona Olympics.

Jackson was due to take on his rival and training partner Mark McKoy, the Olympic champion. But the Canadian, who is in danger of missing the World Championships because he has refused

to take part in this week's Canadian trials, may be forced to withdraw.

Under International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) rules, an athlete is prohibited from racing in another event on the same day as his national trials.

The Canadian federation's ruling only to pick athletes who attend the trials looks harsh to the Cologne organisers. The meeting promoter was still expressing hope Thursday that McKoy could compete.

Earlier this month Olympic women's long jump champion Heike Drechsler caused a stir by skipping the German Championships to compete at the lucrative Oslo meeting but was still selected for Stuttgart by the national federation.

World Cup qualifiers

Brazil face crucial match; Argentina have tricky start

SAN CRISTOBAL, Venezuela (R) — Brazil, with one miserly point from their first two World Cup qualifying games, face a crucial match away to Venezuela Sunday.

Anything other than a win will leave Brazil, the only country to have taken part in all 14 World Cup finals, in serious danger of not qualifying for the 1994 tournament in the United States.

Striker Carlos Alberto Parreira also knows after a humiliating loss in Bolivia, a draw or defeat in Venezuela is likely to spell the end of his 21-month reign.

They opened their campaign with a dismal 7-1 defeat at home to Bolivia.

But last Sunday, they lost only 1-0 against much-fancied Uruguay, doing enough to earn a draw and show they could compete life for Brazil.

Striker Jose Dolgetta was their top scorer in the recent Copa America with four goals while his partner, Belgian-based Stalin Rivas, is a constant threat with his blistering left foot shot.

Argentina meet Peru

Argentina, whose rugged and defensive style has made them unpopular opponents, begin their attempt to qualify for the 1994 World Cup with a tricky away match against Peru Sunday.

Captain and central defender Oscar Ruggeri is poised to break the Argentine record for the number of national team appearances in what will be his 82nd full international.

Parreira benched Cafu, Valber, Leonardo, Luiz Henrique, Zinho and Muller, all starters in Brazil's disastrous 2-0 loss to Bolivia last Sunday.

Brando, Dunga, Elivelton and Careca will replace the out-of-favor starters along with Jorginho, who came in as a substitute last week, and Ricardo Rocha.

"I changed because Brazil has to play on the attack," said Parreira, adding that the return of the old defenders Brando and Jorginho gave the team more firepower.

Brazilian Federation President Ricardo Teixeira met privately with Parreira at training camp for more than two hours. After the meeting, the coach announced the new lineup.

"When Brazil spends 90 minutes against Bolivia and shoots just two balls on goal, something is very wrong," said Teixeira, who is the son-in-law of FIFA President Joao Havelange.

"Brazil will win Sunday," he said firmly. "I accept nothing less."

In an unusual move, Parreira Thursday announced Brazil's starting lineup for Sunday's game — Claudio Taffarel, Jorginho, Ricardo Rocha, Marcio Santos and Brando; Mauro Silva,

two wins in penalty shoot-outs and scored only six goals in six matches.

It was the same story in the 1990 World Cup.

Despite finishing runners-up, Argentina made few friends as they won twice on penalties and topped the tables for the number of cards received — 22 yellow and three red — and number of fouls in the competition.

The Argentines are playing in South America Group A — a tough line-up including Colombia and Paraguay.

Only the winners automatically qualify for the 1994 finals in the United States, while the runners-up play off against either Australia or Canada.

Peruvian soccer has slumped since the team appeared in three out of four World Cups between 1970 and 1982.

The team reached the quarter-finals of the Copa America but lost 3-0 to Uruguay in a friendly two weeks ago.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Blind sailor bids to cross Atlantic

OFF CAPE MAY, New Jersey (R) — Hank Dekker cast off Thursday for Plymouth, England, in a bid to be the first blind sailor to cross the Atlantic solo. "Free at last," Dekker was heard to say as his 30-foot (9 metre) sloop, the NFB-52, left its moorings to begin the 3,200-mile (5,150 km) voyage. The trip is expected to take about three weeks. Dekker, 58, was being towed through shipping traffic about five miles out to sea before being cut loose on his unescorted trip. "My final thoughts are, let's get going," Dekker told Reuters. Asked what he was leaving behind, he said, "a couple of children, a mother, and a lot of broken-hearted ladies."

Joyner-Kersee withdraws from U.S. Olympic festival

SANTA MONICA, California (R) — World heptathlon world record holder Jackie Joyner-Kersee has withdrawn from this weekend's U.S. Olympic Festival as a precautionary move after straining her adductor muscle, her physical therapist said Thursday. "It's a little strain, but nothing serious," Robert Forster told Reuters. "It was just too much of a risk to have her compete and have something more serious happen this close to the World Championships." Joyner-Kersee was scheduled to run the 200 metres and high jump at the U.S. Olympic Festival in San Antonio, Texas, as a tune-up for the World Championships, which begin August 14 in Stuttgart, Germany.

Gullit and Platt on form

ROME (AFP) — Dutch master Ruud Gullit and England striker David Platt have been busy impressing their new club, Sampdoria. Gullit was the chief architect of Sampdoria's 2-0 win over his former club AC Milan in a friendly tournament at Udine Thursday night. He scored the first and laid on the second for Amilio Lombardo in a superb showmanship display, helped throughout the game by Platt. Gullit, who struggled to find a first team slot as a playmaker last season with the Italian champions, was delighted with his new role up front. "I feel really good in what is a new role for me and the whole team played well," he said.

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said. "We've got more work to do, for sure, but we'll soon see the results." Gullit and Platt joined Sampdoria in a hectic week earlier this month.

Rangers to punish violent fans

SUNDERLAND, England (AFP) — Glasgow Rangers will take tough action against fans involved in violence that led to dozens of injuries and arrests before and after an exhibition soccer match in England. "It seems some idiots have tarnished the reputation of the club," said David Murray, chairman of the Scottish League champions. "We will boot out the trouble makers. People who have been involved will not be back at Ibrox (the home ground) and we may have to reconsider our position about playing matches in England." About 8,000 Rangers fans travelled to Sunderland for Wednesday night's match. Violence flared in the city centre before and after the game. It was the first time in seven years that Rangers had played an exhibition in England.

Sport of kings goes weekly in southern China

HONG KONG (AFP) — Horse racing is to become a weekly event in the booming southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, allowing punters a regular flutter one year after the sport of kings was reintroduced on an experimental basis. Two races will be run every Sunday starting starting August 1, the semi-official China News Service quoted a Guangzhou Jockey Club spokesman as saying. While gambling in general remains prohibited in China, punters will be allowed to bet directly on the horses of their choice. The first races held in June last year had offered a sweepstake-style gambling system. Observers believe the horse racing has been officially sanctioned by Beijing.

Maradona may play for Argentine club

Buenos Aires (R) — Diego Maradona said Thursday he would like to quit soccer, but may play for local club San Lorenzo de Almagro. The team's coach, Hector "Bambino" Veira, said he was pleased at the prospect. "Diego has what it takes, he still has the will and fire in his belly," said Veira. Maradona, sacked by Spanish Club Sevilla last month, said Veira was the only coach who could lure him back into action.

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The theatre will be closed in preparation for "Ahlan Arab Summit" play which will be shown at the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts.

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Japan coalition braces for power; LDP leader elected

Combined agency dispatches

TOKYO — The anti-corruption campaigner poised to become Japan's next prime minister began preparing Friday for a coalition government to replace the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

"Political reform remains our top priority but we must be ready to tackle all the issues as vigorously and effectively as possible," an upbeat Morihiro Hosokawa told reporters.

The former provincial governor, whose meteoric rise to the top has ended the cosy certainties of Japanese politics, is not expected officially to announce any cabinet posts until after parliament has confirmed him as prime minister.

LDP officials said parliament would be convened next Thursday, with the vote taking place some days later.

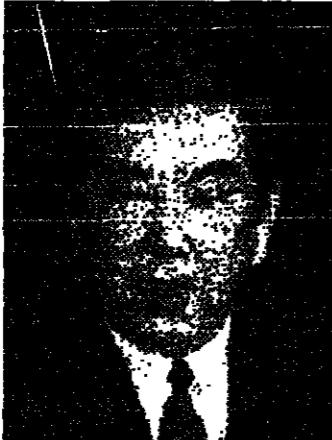
A coalition of eight parties with a majority in parliament's lower house chose Mr. Hosokawa, 55, as its leader on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the LDP, adapting to the unaccustomed role of main opposition party, elected Yohei Kono Friday as its new president, the first holder of the post who will not automatically become prime minister.

Mr. Kono, outgoing government spokesman and a champion of younger LDP reformists, defeated veteran Michio Watanabe 208 to 159 in a ballot of party lawmakers from both houses and delegates from regional chapters.

The mood during the ballot was one of defiance and scorn for the coalition "upstarts," on the verge of turfing the LDP out of office for the first time since its formation in 1955.

Campaign posters from the



Yohei Kono

July 18 general election that robbed the LDP of its majority still decorated the walls.

"The eight-party coalition won't bring stability to Japan, there will be another election before long," said one elderly delegate.

Nonetheless, it was the first time that the LDP, brought low by public anger over its backroom deals and corrupt ways, had elected a leader without horse-trading among its quarrelsome factions.

The LDP is seeking to freshen its image by electing Mr. Kono, a relatively young reformist leader as its president.

Three independents joined the LDP camp Friday, raising the number of its seats in the 511-seat lower house to 230, compared with the 255 seats held by the coalition. Remaining seats are held by independents and the Japan Communist Party.

Because the dominant partners of the coalition are former Liberal Democrats, no major changes in Japan's foreign or economic

policies are expected right away. The coalition's leaders have said their first priority would be to clean up endemic political corruption.

But Japanese commentators who had wistfully viewed U.S. President Bill Clinton's election as a political sea change Japan might never see were uneasy about tapping a young, former state governor to head their own government.

"Some anxieties remain about a prime minister of unknown capabilities, although we would like to basically praise the bold selection," the Asahi national newspaper said.

Mr. Hosokawa, who has never

held a cabinet post and who launched his populist Japan New Party just 14 months ago, appeared to inspire little confidence among Japanese used to seeing Liberal Democratic elders in the prime minister's post.

"He is a lot better skier than he is a politician," said Masaji Shinagawa, president of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives.

Outgoing Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, 73, has held almost all the important positions in the cabinet, including the foreign, finance and trade portfolios.

But Mr. Shinagawa said he hoped Mr. Hosokawa's coalition would enact political reforms in Russia, and China's continued modernisation of its armed forces.

While the government had adopted its defence programme in December, "it was judged that it is appropriate for Japan to continue to improve its defence capability," the agency's defence counsellor, Masataka Suzuki, told reporters as he presented the white paper.



Morihiro Hosokawa

the largest single party, are likely to remain a powerful political force. Their legislators have close links with policy-making bureaucrats that will give them considerable leverage as an opposition party.

Boosting defence

Japan plans to beef up its armed forces further in the light of what it considers an unstable regional climate and the challenges posed by North Korea and the former Soviet Union, the Japan Defence Agency said Friday.

North Korea is "one of the regions in the world with the highest tension today," the agency warned in its annual white paper adopted Thursday by the cabinet.

The white paper also specifically pointed to concerns raised by the confused political situation in Russia, and China's continued modernisation of its armed forces.

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Africa Rights group accuses U.N. of abuses in Somalia

LONDON (Agencies) — The London-based group Africa Rights on Friday accused United Nations forces in Somalia of "grave violations of human rights," including gratuitous beating and killing of civilians.

In a report based on two five-week trips to Somalia by its staff during June and July, Africa Rights alleged that U.N. forces had fired at demonstrators on June 12-13, had attacked hospital on June 17 and had killed unspecified civilians on July 2 and 6.

It criticised a U.S. air strike on a political meeting on July 12 among supporters of Mogadishu's main warlord Mohamad Farrah Aideed, in which it said that 54 Somalis had died.

The same figure was gathered from hospital sources by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and was far higher than the 18 given by U.N. military officials at the time.

It was the air attack, said the report, that led to the reprisal killing of four foreign journalists.

Africa Rights was particularly critical of Belgian U.N. troops based in the southern port of Kismayo.

Those soldiers, it said, had beaten several people, thrown seven children into a river, conducted body searches on local women and shot dead a carpenter making crutches for the ICRC.

African Rights, which was formed last December, said its staff had discerned a "deep and growing sense of outrage" against the U.N. force, UNOSOM II, even on the part of those Somalis who overally endorse the political and humanitarian work of the United Nations.

Africa Rights alleged U.N. forces had unfairly detained scores of Somalis, evicted them from buildings which were then demolished to clear ground for U.N. camps and of exploding ordnance in the middle of the inland town of Belet Huen.

It praised the 200-strong Botswana force based in the southern town of Bardere as the only group which had calmed insecurity, unfailingly helped humanitarian convoys and won popularity among local residents.

"The view... that Somali people are inherently aggressive and respect only superior force is shown to be nonsense by the Botswanans' remarkable demonstration of the possibility of conducting a hearts and minds campaign," it said.

Debate in U.S. Congress

In Washington, Clinton administration officials defended recent U.S.-led attacks in Somalia on Thursday against calls in Congress to withdraw U.S. troops because of the violence.

"We should support (U.N.) efforts to restore order to southern Mogadishu, including the use of force, where this is necessary and appropriate," Under-Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Several Republicans said at separate hearings in the House of Representatives and the Senate that Somalis in Mogadishu are turning against U.S. forces because of the attacks so U.S. troops should be withdrawn.

"The American public will not support a strategy that seems to be turning American troops into objects of anger and attack," said

Representative Benjamin Gilman of New York, senior Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

"It is time for new thinking to break the gridlock of violence there and to bring home the U.S. military forces."

Several senators said the United States should stay firm in Somalia, however.

"For us now to say 'sorry, we are running into a few bumps along the road, we're going to hightail it out of here? I think would be absolutely irresponsible," said Senator Paul Simon, Democrat of Illinois.

Senator Nancy Kassebaum, Republican of Kansas, said, "It is essential that the United States stay the course in Somalia."

Loi knows nothing of recall

General Bruno Loi, the Italian officer at the centre of a row between Italy and the United Nations over the peacekeeping mission in Somalia, said Friday he knew nothing of plans to recall him early.

"I have heard nothing to that effect," the Italian news agency ANSA quoted Gen. Loi as saying.

He had been asked about reports he would be recalled before the scheduled end of his tour in September and that the 800 Italian troops in Mogadishu would be redeployed to other parts of Somalia.

The U.N. demanded the immediate recall of Gen. Loi this month when a row blew up over the tactics used by the United Nations in Somalia. Italy said military action was taking priority over dialogue.

COLUMN 10

Iranian TV fires stars for wedding dance

TEHRAN (R) — Two of Iranian television's most popular entertainers have been sacked for dancing at a wedding which shocked Islamic lawmakers when they saw a film of the mixed gathering. Mahmoud Shabani and Javad Atasharoorz disappeared without explanation this week from "After The News," their nightly prime-time show of jokes and skits. But Deputy Ali Zadcar told the news Kar Va Kargar Wednesday that he was shamed when film of a wedding party was shown in a Majlis committee. "The bride and most ladies were semi-nude. I saw a familiar face among the gentlemen — a co-host of the

"After The News" programme, wearing a tie... who started dancing," Mr. Zadcar said. The show's other host also danced, he added. Mixed parties are banned under Iran's Islamic laws. Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri told parliament Wednesday that two unnamed TV stars had been fired. After The News, launched last year, offered a change from state television's mostly drab fare and quickly became on the country's most popular shows.

Stuntman protest restriction

NICE, France (AP) — A disgruntled stuntman, angered by local authorities' refusal to let him bungee jump from an airplane, suspended himself 200 metres above a road — with enough food to last four days. Pierre Rosso, 56, eased himself off a bridge crossing over a highway between Nice and Monaco, suspending himself 20 metres below the bridge on a seat with some ropes. He said he would cut the ropes holding him if police or rescue workers attempted to reach him. French Civil Aviation Authorities had forbidden Mr. Rosso from bungee-jumping off a single-engine airplane at airshows instead of helicopters as Mr. Rosso had used in the past. Mr. Rosso claims to hold the world record for bungee-jumping with a leap of 700 metres.

Filipino lawmaker ousted for being U.S. citizen

MANILA (R) — A Philippine electoral tribunal has voted to oust a member of Congress after finding he was a naturalised American citizen, officials said. The tribunal, which settles poll disputes, voted 9-2 to disqualify Congressman Manuel Sanchez, a member of a congressional coalition supporting President Fidel Ramos. An opponent protested against Mr. Sanchez's poll victory last year, saying the congressman was not qualified to run having acquired American citizenship in 1985 when he was living in the United States. "Our finding is that he lost Philippine citizenship when he became an American citizen by naturalisation," a tribunal official said.

China, one of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, demanded that Israel halt its bombardment of southern Lebanon.

"We demand that Israel immediately stop its aggressive action against Lebanon's territory and sovereignty," a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman was quoted by state television as saying.

Norwegian plans to cross North Sea on water-skis

OSLO (R) — A Norwegian plans to cross the North Sea on water-skis and hopes to cover 600 kilometres in 18 hours. Trond Larsen, 36, will start near London's Tower Bridge on Aug. 14 — provided British authorities give their approval. The Norwegian News Agency (NTB) reported. He will be pulled by a 20-metre speedboat. A second boat will follow an escort on the journey to Esbjerg in Denmark.

The ski instructor has also asked for permission to follow the ferry Dana Anglia on its way from Harwich to Esbjerg because the vessel could provide shelter from strong winds. The captain has not yet given his go-ahead.

The State Department is trying to avoid speculation by insisting that Mr. Christopher's decision to go to the Middle East was not the result of the fighting that has flared for a week along the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Israel said Thursday it was ready to halt the onslaught if the United States guaranteed Hizbollah guerrillas would stop firing Katyusha rockets at its northern towns.

One-headed Siamese twin born in China

PEKING (AFP) — A young Chinese woman has given birth to a one-headed Siamese twin in Chongqing, in southwestern China's Sichuan province, the Liberation Daily reported. The baby was born with four arms and four legs, but only one pair was fully formed, the newspaper said. It was joined at the abdomen and had both female and male sexual organs.

King calls for end to Israeli actions

(Continued from page 1)

frontline of which were the process and the situations in Lebanon and Bosnia.

Mr. Mitterrand praised Jordan's democratisation process and the country's role in promoting regional stability and security, a press release from the Royal Palace said.

Discussion between King Hussein and Mr. Balladur also centred on the peace process and dangers inherent in Israel's escalation of the situation in South Lebanon on the peace process.

During the King's meeting with Mr. Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace Thursday the two leaders exchanged bilateral relations between France, and France, and discussed a variety of regional and international issues at the

Arabs to call for Security Council action

(Continued from page 1)

Akbar Velayati, who arrived unexpectedly Thursday to meet with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Iran is the main sponsor of Hizbollah, the militia that Israel has targeted in its offensive.

Mr. Velayati also met with Hizbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, but no details of the meetings were given.

An Iranian embassy source said discussion focused on "ways of supporting Lebanese resistance and Lebanese people in the face of (Israeli) aggression."

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Mr. Velayati as condemning the Israeli offensive as "a blatant breach of international law" and offering continued assistance to militias resisting the Jewish state.

"How can peace be achieved if Israeli military operations continue in Lebanon?" Dr. Abdul Meguid said.

There was intensive diplomatic activity in advance of the Arab League meeting.

Among those in Damascus was Iranian Foreign Minister Ali

No response to Hizbollah offer

(Continued from page 1)

bolah stops the rocketing Israel will end the operation.

"Israel believes that Syria wishes to stop the fighting and has the power to do so," he added.

With international calls increasing for a halt to the battle, official sources said a majority of ministers favoured a ceasefire.

But ministers left the meeting without making any comment and there was no communiqué.

In a statement issued in Beirut, Hizbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah for the first time publicly acknowledged that his guerrillas were firing the rockets on Israel and its self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon.

"We announce... that halting rocket attacks on settlements in occupied northern Palestine cannot be achieved but with the complete and permanent halt of aggression against villages and civilians... and the stopping of Israeli attacks from air, land and sea on all Lebanon territories," Sheikh Nasrallah said.

The outbreak of violence, far from underscoring the fruitlessness of the peace talks, illustrates how crucial to the region's stability it is to keep the process on track, in the U.S. view.

Christopher said to delay trip by 2 days

(Continued from page 1)

American administration will work with all its capacities to stop the aggressions.

Mr. Arafat said the PLO would wait to examine proposals by Mr. Christopher.

Mr. Christopher's arrival in the region will be preceded by a message carefully drawn up in Washington. From the start of the Israeli offensive, the U.S. government has placed the crisis within the context of the peace process, giving it broader dimensions than a simple reprisal for the killing of seven soldiers in southern Lebanon.

In fact, if it is an act of simple vengeance, the operation appears to have missed its objective, since the Israeli bombardments have failed to silence Hizbollah rockets, and has been counter-productive, since the Jewish state now stands accused of having killed Lebanese civilians and provoking an exodus of more than 500,000 civilians.

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